AARDVARK-VANAHEIM PRESENTS

CEREBUS

29 AUG

$1.50

HIGH SOCIETY

DAVE SIM
CREATOR WRITER/ARTIST/LETTERER
PRODUCER/DIRECTOR
NARRATION/CHARACTER VOICES

DENI LOUBERT
ORIGINAL PUBLISHER

JOHN SCRUDDER
PRODUCER/DIRECTOR
CEREBUS DIGITAL
BEHIND THE PANELS
www.behindthepanels.com

GEORGE PETER GATSIS
AUDIO & DIGITAL TECHNICAL PRODUCER
SOUND EFFECTS & MUSIC DESIGNER
ARCHIVE LAYOUT
www.georgepetergatsis.com

SANDEEP ATWAL
PRODUCER
DIGITAL SCANNING
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

DAVE FISHER
for CEREBUS TV
PROMOTION COORDINATOR

MARGARET LISS
Proofreading

PUBLIC DOMAIN
MUSIC & SOUND EFFECTS
GarageBand, Apple Inc.

ISBN : 0-919359-07-8

Dave and Deni met December 16, 1976.
They married October 6, 1978.
Separated August 20, 1983.
Divorced August 1986.

All ads, contests, contact information
in the letters, ads and archive pages are null and void!
IT'S, LIKE, 30 YEARS AGO, EH?

visit us @
www.cerebusdownloads.com

Dave Sim is willing to do Ball Point Sketches for $100 each.
You can contact Dave at:
Box 1674, Station "C"
Kitchener, Ontario
N2G 4R2, CANADA
Phone: 1-519-576-0610
Fax: 1-519-576-0955

A Note from the Publisher

This issue I'm going to talk about a few things. The first one is concerning something I probably should have brought up before on this page. Dave and I, you understand, make our living doing Cerebus. What I mean is -- this is *all* we do to earn our living. We work hard at it. Therefore, when I hear of people who use something Dave and I have worked hard on and they make money off of our work -- I'm not too happy. I'm talking about bootlegging. You know, t-shirts, buttons, even playing cards. And the two things they have in common is they all have Cerebus on them and they all aren't sanctioned by us, so we get nothing, (Not a penny) from them. You've probably seen them, maybe bought one yourself. Maybe you make them and don't see the harm you're doing. If you're doing it and not even letting us know it -- is there a reason? The people who do the "Cerebus for Dictator" t-shirt are the only official t-shirt producers. It isn't that they make us a lot of money, but they did respect Dave enough to write to him and tell him what they'd like to do and offer him a percentage of their sales. I don't think that's asking too much.

If you want to do something for your club or your group, that's fine. Where we draw the line is on profit-making ventures. If you've got something you think will interest other Cerebus fans, and Dave agrees, there is no difficulty in sanctioning any given product. We will even assist in getting you the widest possible market for your Aardvarkian doo-dad. Contact us first, though.

On to more pleasant things.

Along with this issue, I am finally bringing the art for the Diamondback cards to the printer. Before you jump up and shout, though, I will warn you that paper has to be ordered and delivered and there are umpteen dozen strikes going on in Canada, so the cards may be delayed a few weeks.

The retail price for the black and white cards (the backs are done in four colour) should be somewhere around three dollars per box. Anyone who joined the Fan Club at or before the 1981 San Diego Comicon will get a free set of the cards as part of his or her membership. Join today before you miss the next freebie!

One last note before I crawl into bed for the night (she crawled into bed an hour ago, this is Dave typing from her scribbled notes). Dave and I will be in Albany in September for FantaCon. It's September 18th and 19th and we hope we will see you there!! Catch you next month.

Deni

CEREBUS

VOL. 1 NO. 29 AUGUST, 1981

Publisher
Denise Loubert

Distributors:
Bud Plant Inc.
P.O. Box 1886
Grass Valley, CA
95945

Pacific Comics
P.O. Box 99217
San Diego, CA
92109

Glenwood Distribution
124 Vandalia St.
Collinsville, IL
62234

Capital City Distributors
2827 Perry Street
Madison, Wisconsin
53713

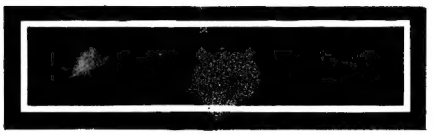
Styx Comic Service
Box 3791, Stn. B
Winnipeg, Man., Canada
R2W 3R6

Now & Then Books
103 Queen St. South
Kitchener, Ont.
N2G 1W1

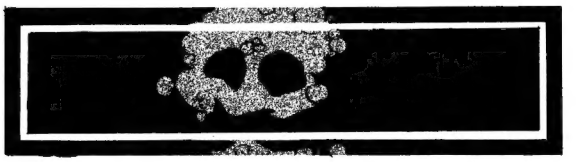
Cerebus Fan Club
c/o Fred Patten
11863 West Jefferson Blvd.
Culver City, California
90230
Membership...$5.00 per year

Advertising
Abraxas Studio
Richard Bruning
P.O. Box 1606
Madison, Wisconsin

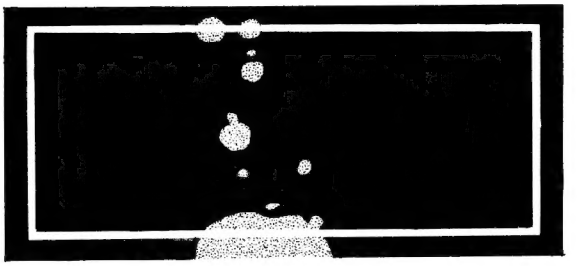
CEREBUS THE AARDVARK is published fifteen times a year by Aardvark-Vanaheim Inc., P.O. Box 1674 Station 'C', Kitchener, Ontario, Canada N2G 4R2, including three "Swords of Cerebus" in January, May and September. All contents © 1981 Dave Sim. Any inquiries regarding use of the characters, images, or situations depicted should be addressed to Denise Loubert. No unauthorized reproduction allowed except for review or other Journalistic purpose. Advertising rates furnished on request. Printed in Canada by Preney Print & Litho Inc., Windsor, Ontario.



M'Lord?



M'Lord, I don't wish to disturb you but I have an urgent message for you from the Prime Minister.



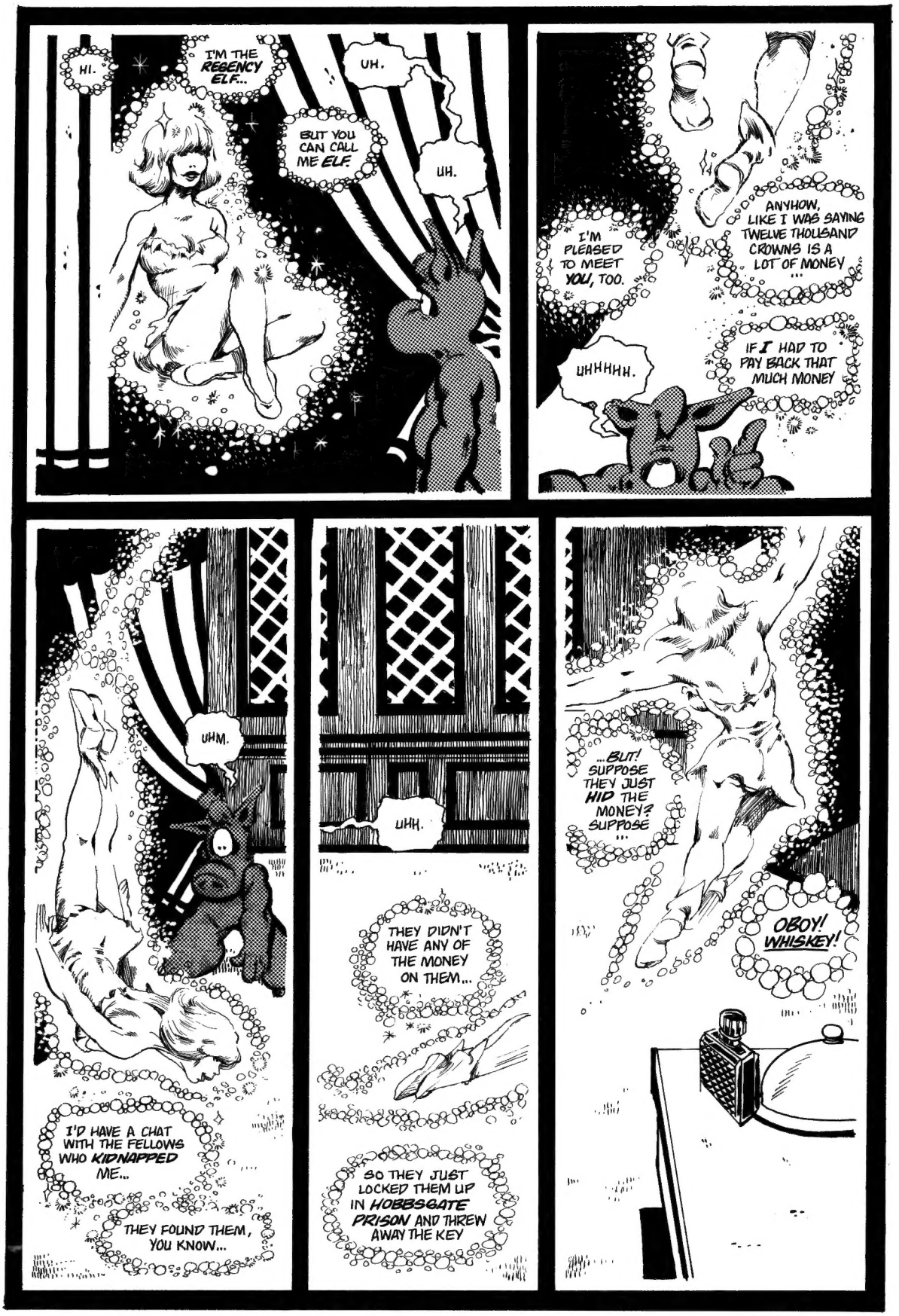
Cerebus isn't going to open his eyes until you tell him where he is. Why, the Regency Hotel, M'Lord. This is your room.

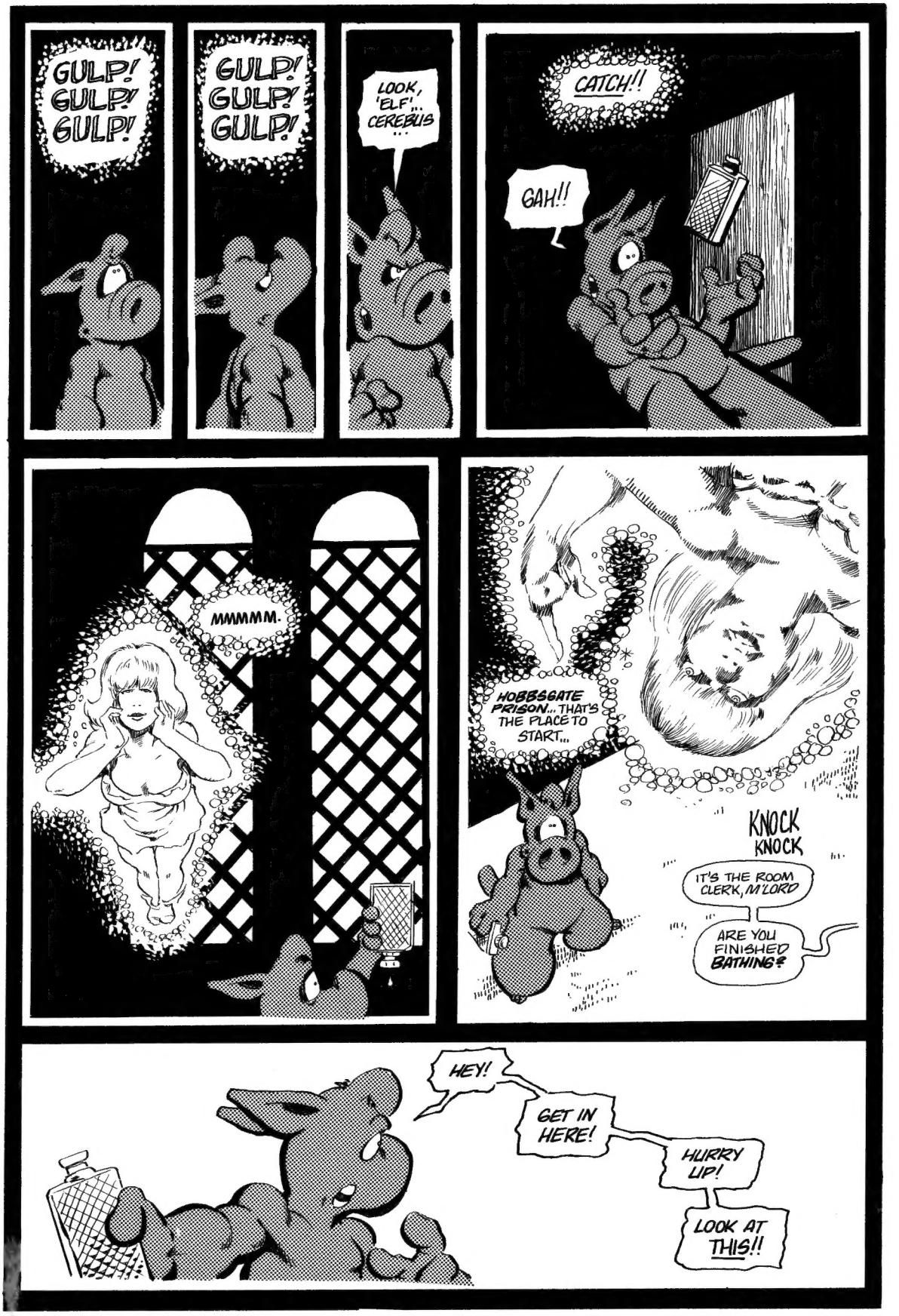
REPERCUSSIONS

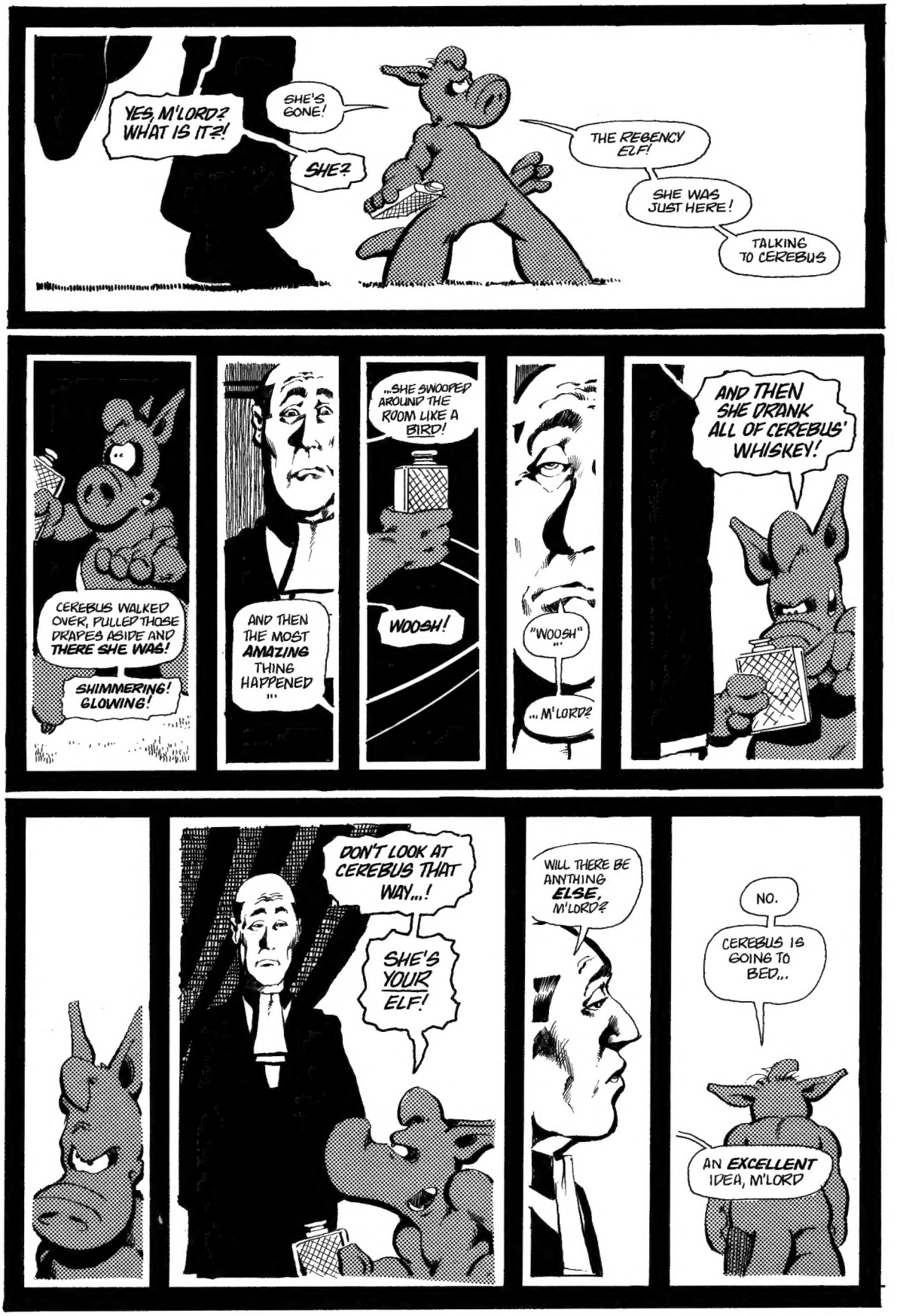
THE RIGHT HONORABLE PRIME MINISTER WISHES TO EXPRESS HIS SINCERE GOOD WISHES TO PALNU'S RANKING DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE ON HIS SAFE RETURN FROM SO TORTUROUS AN ORDEAL. THE...
PUT A CORK IN IT FOR A MINUTE, SON...
HEY!
HEY, KID!!
YEAH. YOU.
BRING UP A SIDE OF BEEF AND A BOTTLE OF BOREALAN WHISKEY
AND SOMEONE TO DRAW CEREBUS' BATH.
...THE PRIME MINISTER FURTHER EXPRESSES HIS SINCERE DESIRE TO DISCUSS REIMBURSEMENT OF THE RANSOM PAID ON M'LORD'S BEHALF...
...HE CONCLUDES WITH SINCERE WISHES FOR YOUR SPEEDY RECOVERY
GIVE US A HAND HERE WOULD YOU, SON?
I AM INSTRUCTED TO AWAIT A REPLY ...
OKAY OKAY
...uh...
"THE RANKING DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE OF PALNU THANKS THE RIGHT HONORABLE PRIME MINISTER FOR USING THE WORD 'SINCERE' THREE TIMES IN ONE LETTER...
" AS A RESULT OF HIS ABDUCTION, CEREBUS FINDS HIMSELF TO BE TEMPORARILY WITHOUT FUNDS..."
"PLEASE REST ASSURED, HOWEVER THAT THE NEXT TIME CEREBUS HAS TWELVE THOUSAND CROWNS HANDY, HE WILL NOT HESITATE TO DO HIS DUTY FOR THE PRIME MINISTER AND TEST..."
"AMEN."
KNOCK KNOCK
IT'S OPEN!

VEDDY SORRY, M'LAWD. I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE...
THE MUSTACHE WAS JUST LEAVING...
WEREN'T YOU, MUSTACHE?
em--OF COURSE
QUITE SO.
IF YOU KEEP THE FOOD COVERED WHILE YOU BATHE, IT SHOULD KEEP WARM, M'LAWD ...
AND MAY I SAY, ON BEHALF OF THE HOTEL STAFF, HOW GLAD WE ARE TO HAVE YOU BACK SAFE AND SOUND?
YASS.
WELL.
IF YOU WILL EXCUSE ME, M'LAWD ...
CLICK.
TARIM.
YOU KNOW WHAT I THINK?

I THINK THEY'RE UP TO SOMETHING ...
INNEC STARYM WAS KIDNAPPED ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-NINE YEARS AGO FROM THE REGENCY
AND THEY DIDN'T EXPECT HIM TO PAY BACK HIS RANSOM.
YOU'RE AN AARDVARK AREN'T YOU?
DID YOU KNOW THERE HASN'T BEEN AN AARDVARK AROUND HERE FOR EIGHT HUNDRED YEARS?
DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO DO?
ABOUT THE MONEY, I MEAN.
IF YOU DON'T PAY THEM...
THEY'RE, LIKE, APT TO BE UPSET...
TWELVE THOUSAND CROWNS IS A LOT OF MONEY


HI.
I'M THE REGENCY ELF...
BUT YOU CAN CALL ME ELF.
UH.
UH.
I'M PLEASED TO MEET YOU, TOO.
ANYHOW, LIKE I WAS SAYING TWELVE THOUSAND CROWNS IS A LOT OF MONEY ...
IF I HAD TO PAY BACK THAT MUCH MONEY
UHHHHH.
UHM.
I'D HAVE A CHAT WITH THE FELLOWS WHO KIDNAPPED ME...
THEY FOUND THEM, YOU KNOW...
UHH.
THEY DIDN'T HAVE ANY OF THE MONEY ON THEM...
SO THEY JUST LOCKED THEM UP IN HOBBSGATE PRISON AND THREW AWAY THE KEY
...BUT! SUPPOSE THEY JUST HID THE MONEY? SUPPOSE ...
OBOY! WHISKEY!


GULP! GULP! GULP!
GULP! GULP! GULP!
LOOK, 'ELF!... CEREBUS...
CATCH!!
GAH!!
MMMMM.
HOBBSGATE PRISON... THAT'S THE PLACE TO START...
KNOCK KNOCK
IT'S THE ROOM CLERK, M'LORD
ARE YOU FINISHED BATHING?
HEY!
GET IN HERE!
HURRY UP!
LOOK AT THIS!!


YES, M'LORD? WHAT IS IT?!
SHE'S GONE!
SHE?
THE REGENCY ELF!
SHE WAS JUST HERE!
TALKING TO CEREBUS
CEREBUS WALKED OVER, PULLED THOSE DRAPES ASIDE AND THERE SHE WAS!
SHIMMERING! GLOWING!
AND THEN THE MOST AMAZING THING HAPPENED ...
...SHE SWOOPED AROUND THE ROOM LIKE A BIRD!
WOOSH!
"WOOSH" ...
... M'LORD?
AND THEN SHE DRANK ALL OF CEREBUS' WHISKEY!
DON'T LOOK AT CEREBUS THAT WAY...!
SHE'S YOUR ELF!
WILL THERE BE ANYTHING ELSE, M'LORD?
NO.
CEREBUS IS GOING TO BED...
AN EXCELLENT IDEA, M'LORD

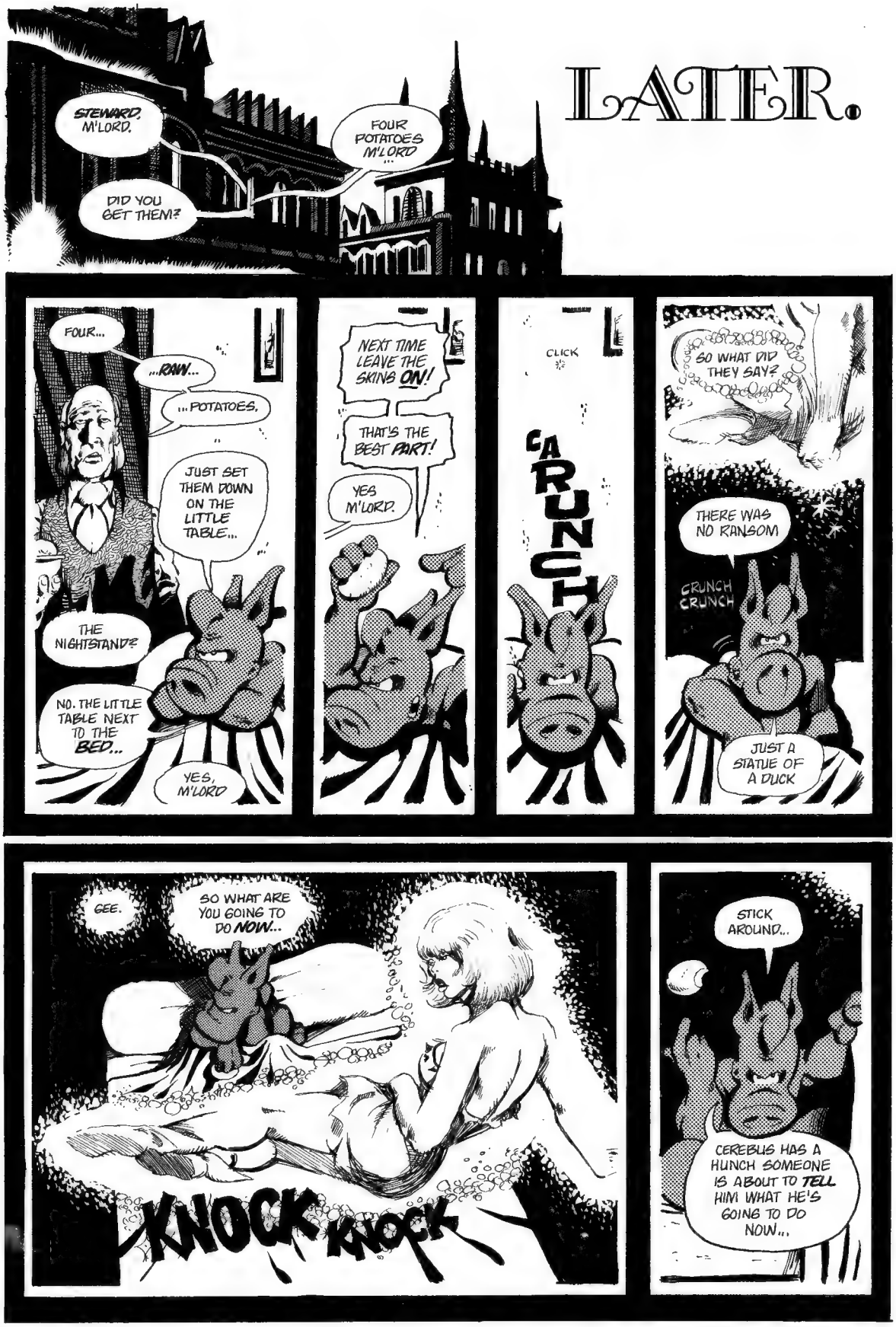
CEREBUS HAD BROKEN INTO HOBBSGATE PRISON SOME YEARS BEFORE TO WIN A BET WITH A LOCAL TAVERN OWNER! IESTAN SECURITY FORCES HAD IMPROVED IN RECENT YEARS BUT THE EARTH-PIG WAS SOBER THIS TIME! HE HOPED THE ADVANTAGE WAS STILL HIS...
AS CEREBUS REACHES THE ROOFTOP LEDGE OVERLOOKING THE WEST COURTYARD, HE FREEZES! EVIDENTLY, NEW 'LAW AND ORDER' POLICIES IN IEST EXTEND TO THE CITY PRISONS ONCE GUARDED BY ILL-PAID THUGS AND LOW LEVEL BUREAUCRATS.

A SPECIAL SECURITY GUARD, USUALLY RESERVED FOR DUTY IN THE TURBULENT LOWER CITY. HIS EYES SWEEP THE COURTYARD, ONE HAND RESTING LIGHTLY ON THE HILT OF HIS SWORD...
MORE CAREFULLY NOW, CEREBUS BEGINS HIS DESCENT, PAUSING WHENEVER THE GUARD TURNS IN HIS DIRECTION. FOR THE FIRST TIME, HE WISHES HE HAD THOUGHT TO BRING A WEAPON...
EVEN AS THE GUARD TURNS, CEREBUS BEGINS A SOUNDLESS DASH FOR SHELTER
THE FOOTSTEPS STOP. THE EARTH PIG FLEXES HIS MUSCLES AS THE SOUND APPROACHES AND STOPS ONCE MORE...
A MOMENT LATER, CEREBUS HAS A BETTER IDEA...

TEN-SHUN
FIRST GUARD ELWYN SALICE, SIR!!
WEST COURTYARD DETAIL, SIR!!
I'M CEREBUS THE AARDVARK RANKING DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GREAT CITY-STATE OF PALNU ...
YES, SIR.
YES WHAT?!
YES, M'LORD!
SORRY, M'LORD!
CEREBUS HAS THIS...
...PROBLEM
PERHAPS YOU CAN HELP CEREBUS WITH HIS PROBLEM. THEN CEREBUS CAN HELP YOU WITH YOUR PROBLEM.
CEREBUS WANTS TO SEE THE TWO MEN WHO HAVE BEEN CHARGED WITH HIS KIDNAPPING
OF COURSE THAT WOULD BE AGAINST REGULATIONS...
WOULDN'T IT?
YES, M'LORD!
WHICH BRINGS US TO YOUR PROBLEM ...
IS IT NOT, AFTER ALL, ALSO AGAINST REGULATIONS TO BE UNSHAVEN AT YOUR POST? ...
Y-YES M'LORD!!
THEN WOULD IT NOT BE ENTIRELY TO OUR MUTUAL BENEFIT TO FORGIVE EACH OTHER OUR...
...PROBLEMS?
YES, M'LORD!
IF YOU WILL FOLLOW ME, THEN, M'LORD

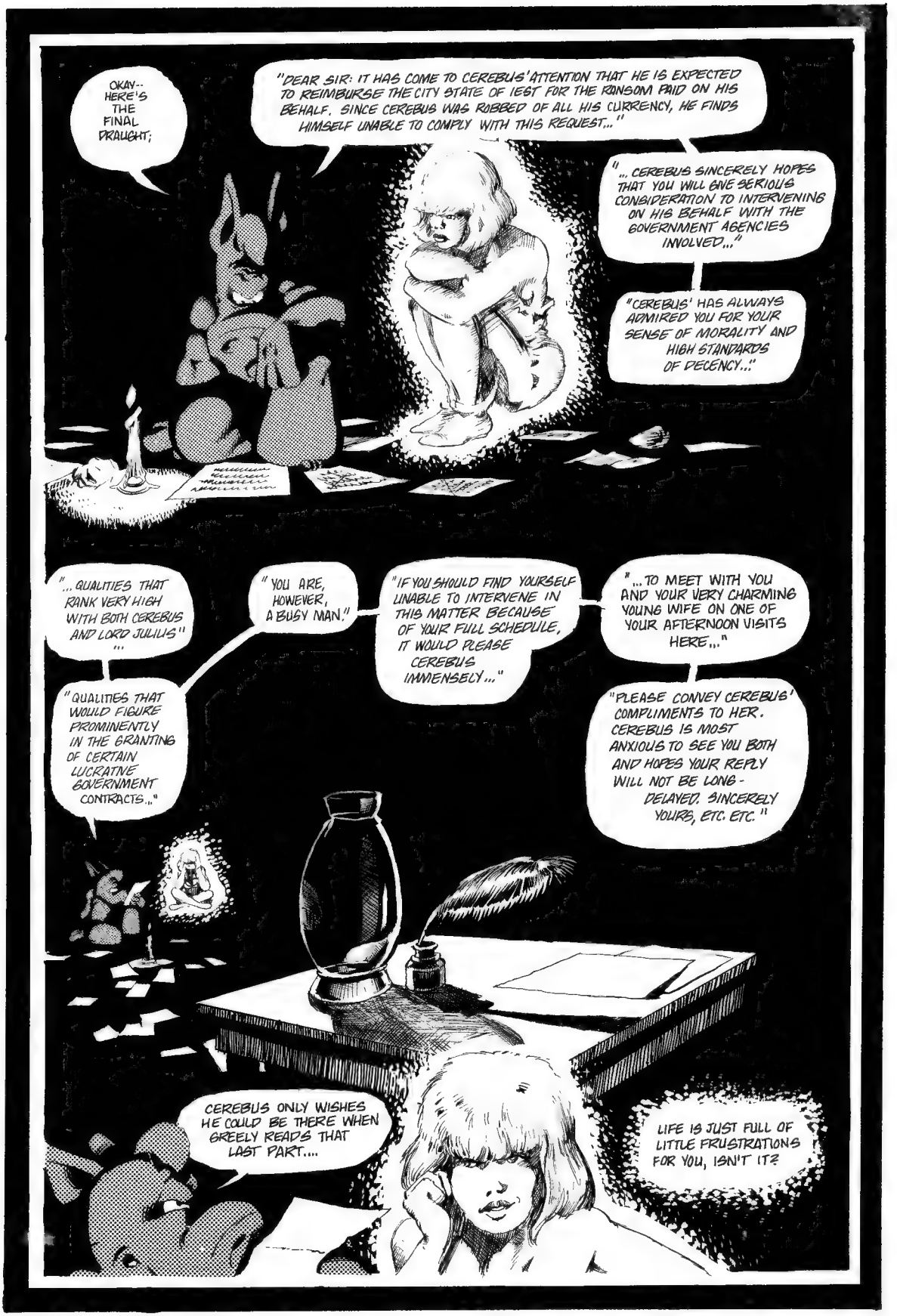
HOW MUCH TIME WILL CEREBUS HAVE?
FIVE MINUTES AT THE MOST, M'LORD ...
THAT'S WHEN THEY CHECK THESE CELLS ...
THEY'RE IN THE TORTURE CELL ON THE END...
STAY BACK FROM THE BARS, M'LORD. THEY'VE BEEN STANDING FOR TWO DAYS...
THERE'S NO TELLING HOW DESPERATE THEY MIGHT BE ...
LOOKEE HYAR, DIRTY DREW IT'S CEREBUS THE NO-ACCOUNT SCUMBAG DIRTY-DEALIN' DOUBLE-CROSSIN' SKONK!!
YEAH!
CEREBUS HAS A FEW QUESTIONS AND NOT MUCH ...
QUESTIONS?! WAL, WE AIN'T TALKIN' TUH NO LOW-DOWN ORN'RY POLECAT TH' LIKES UH WHICH YOU ARE, CRITTER!
YEAH! ASK SUMBUDDY ELSE, YUH UPPER CLASS HALF-PINT LONG-EAR'D GALOOT!!
GO TALK TUH YERSELF!!
YEAH!!
SIT ON YER THUMB AN' ROTATE!
HAWHAW!
HEY!! DON'T GO 'WAY MAD VARMINT!!
ASK US SOME MORE QUESTIONS HAW! HAW!
YEAH! HAW! HAW!
ASK US SUM MORE QUESTIONS, VARMINT
HEY!!
HEY!! ARE THOSE YER EARS OR WUZ YER MUTHER A RABBIT?
HAW HAW
CRAK
OUCHIE
OUCHIE
HEY! GUARD!
GUARD
OW
OWCH!!
BAM
AAG
OW
MUH FOOT, HEY!
SMAK
AAK
THAK
WAM
SMAK!
AAG
OUCH
GUARD!
OW

AH S'POSE, LONG'S WAR JEST STANDIN' HYAR ANYHOW THET WE COULD ANSWER A FEW QUESTIONS ...
AH S'POSE ...
THE RANSOM.
WHERE IS IT...?
RANSOM!?! THAT S'POSETA BE SUM KINDA UPPER CLASS JOKE!?!
NO JOKE.
CEREBUS WANTS TO KNOW WHERE THE RANSOM IS...
AH RIDE A HORSE FIFTY MILES INNA BLINDIN' THUNNERSTORM CHASIN' AFTER A DAM BOAT WITH A DAM RED BLANKET ON IT ONLY TO FIND NUTHIN' IN IT BUT A DAM STATCHOO OF A DAM DUCK!
AN' YOU WANNA KNOW WHAR TH' RANSOM IS?!
WAL AHM SORRY BUT I SOLD YER DAM DUCK TUH BUY SOME SADDLE-SORE REMEDY!!
WHY'N TH' HELL DINYA ASK FER MONEY, HUH?!
WHUT ARE YUH...?
SUM KINDA DAM DUCK LOVER?!
WHO HAS THE DUCK?
AH SOLD IT TUH BIG GARN!

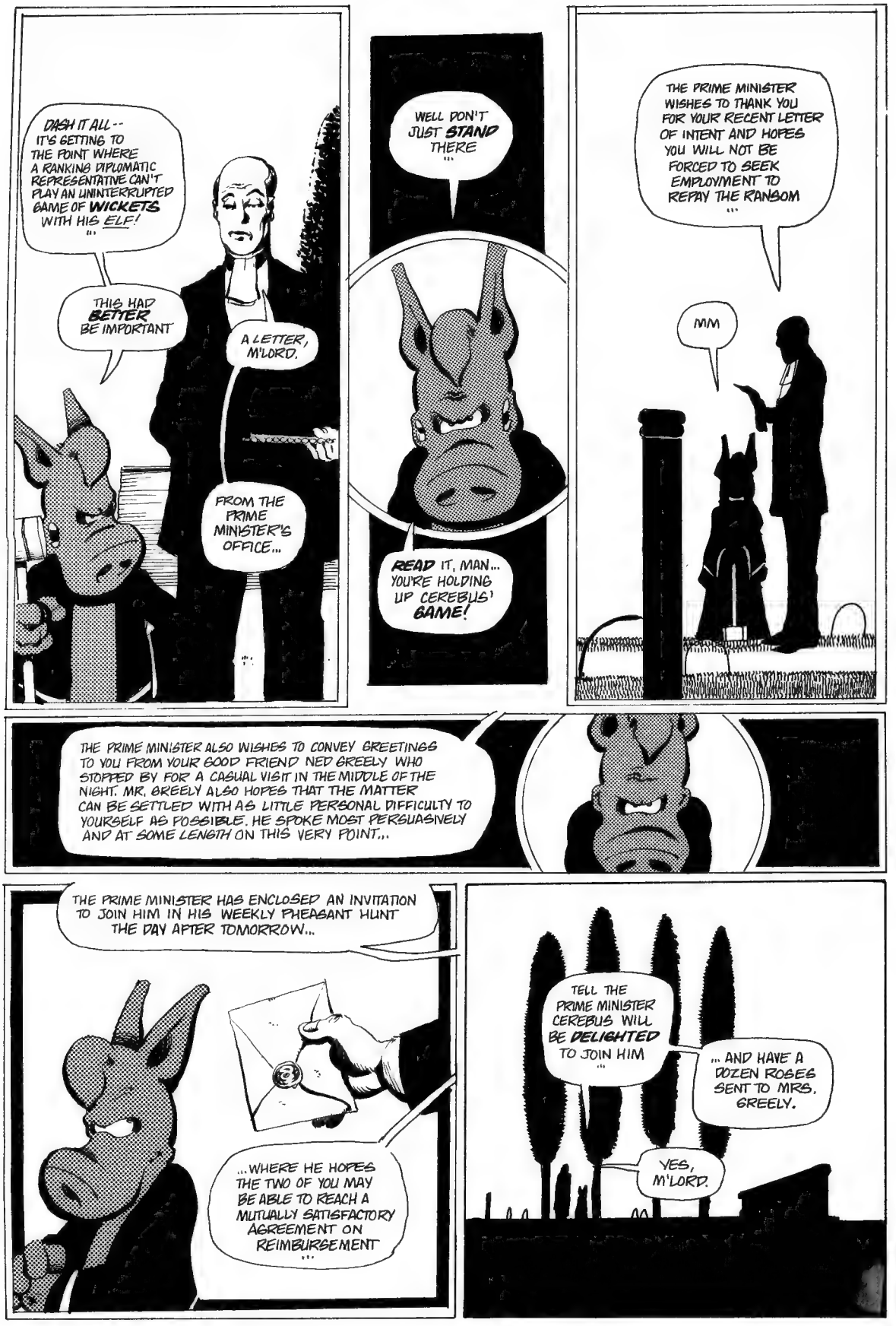

LATER.
STEWARD, M'LORD.
DID YOU GET THEM?
FOUR POTATOES M'LORD ...
FOUR...
...RAW...
...POTATOES,
JUST SET THEM DOWN ON THE LITTLE TABLE...
THE NIGHTSTAND?
NO. THE LITTLE TABLE NEXT TO THE BED...
YES, M'LORD
NEXT TIME LEAVE THE SKINS ON!
THAT'S THE BEST PART!
YES M'LORD.
CLICK
CRUNCH
SO WHAT DID THEY SAY?
THERE WAS NO RANSOM
CRUNCH CRUNCH
JUST A STATUE OF A DUCK
GEE.
SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW...
KNOCK KNOCK
STICK AROUND...
CEREBUS HAS A HUNCH SOMEONE IS ABOUT TO TELL HIM WHAT HE'S GOING TO DO NOW...

M'LORD CEREBUS?
I HAVE A MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER
BY ALL MEANS-- COME IN BEFORE THE INK DRIES
THE PRIME MINISTER IS RESPONDING TO YOUR LETTER OF THIS MORNING
"WHILE THE CITY-STATE OF IEST IS MOST SYMPATHETIC TO YOUR DESTITUTE SITUATION, RECENT YEARS HAVE BROUGHT AN INORDINATE NUMBER OF CROP FAILURES IN OUR IMMEDIATE AREA...
AWW.
WE ARE THEREFORE IN THE UNFORTUNATE POSITION, FOR THE SAKE OF OUR STARVING POPULACE, OF HAVING TO DEMAND RESTITUTION"
AND YOU'RE INSTRUCTED TO AWAIT A REPLY.
UH...
"CEREBUS WISHES TO COMMEND THE PRIME MINISTER FOR HIS UNNECESSARILY QUICK REPLY, AND FOR WHATEVER MINOR DEGREE OF SINCERITY HE INTENDED TO CONVEY..."
"PLEASE REST ASSURED THAT CEREBUS INTENDS TO PAY BACK EVERY CROWN OF HIS RANSOM..."
"EVEN IF HE HAS TO HOLD DOWN THREE JOBS FOR EIGHTY-SIX YEARS."
UNFORTUNATELY YOU HAVE TO BE GOING.
er--
YASS.
TIME FOR CEREBUS TO WRITE A FEW LETTERS OF HIS OWN!

DO YOU REALIZE YOU JUST THREW A CABINET MINISTER OUT OF YOUR ROOM?
MM.
LORD JULIUS SAYS YOU CAN MEASURE A MAN'S WORTH BY THE BREED OF PERSON HE THROWS OUT OF HIS OFFICE
FIRST LETTER.
"MR. NED GREELY -- GREELY, BLEAKER AND SPLEEN. DEAR SIR; OWING TO HIS RECENT ABDUCTION, CEREBUS FINDS HIMSELF IN NEED OF IMMEDIATE CASH RESERVES TO REIMBURSE YOUR GOVERNMENT. CEREBUS IS THEREFORE ASKING YOU AT THIS..."
...HM. NO...
"IS THEREFORE URGENTLY REQUESTING..."
HM.
BOY -- IF I WAS WRITING TO GREELY I KNOW WHAT I'D ASK HIM
I'D ASK HIM WHY HE KEEPS BRINGING THAT SLEAZY SECRETARY OF HIS UP HERE EVERY AFTERNOON
...WHEN HE'S GOT A PERFECTLY RESPECTABLE WIFE AT HOME.
CRUMPLE CRUMPLE CRUMPLE
SAY THAT AGAIN...
...SLOWLY.
SAY WHAT AGAIN SLOWLY?


OKAY-- HERE'S THE FINAL DRAUGHT;
"DEAR SIR: IT HAS COME TO CEREBUS' ATTENTION THAT HE IS EXPECTED TO REIMBURSE THE CITY STATE OF IEST FOR THE RANSOM PAID ON HIS BEHALF. SINCE CEREBUS WAS ROBBED OF ALL HIS CURRENCY, HE FINDS HIMSELF UNABLE TO COMPLY WITH THIS REQUEST..."
"... CEREBUS SINCERELY HOPES THAT YOU WILL GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO INTERVENING ON HIS BEHALF WITH THE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES INVOLVED..."
"CEREBUS' HAS ALWAYS ADMIRED YOU FOR YOUR SENSE OF MORALITY AND HIGH STANDARDS OF DECENCY..."
"... QUALITIES THAT RANK VERY HIGH WITH BOTH CEREBUS AND LORD JULIUS" ...
"YOU ARE, HOWEVER, A BUSY MAN."
"IF YOU SHOULD FIND YOURSELF UNABLE TO INTERVENE IN THIS MATTER BECAUSE OF YOUR FULL SCHEDULE, IT WOULD PLEASE CEREBUS IMMENSELY..."
"... TO MEET WITH YOU AND YOUR VERY CHARMING YOUNG WIFE ON ONE OF YOUR AFTERNOON VISITS HERE..."
"QUALITIES THAT WOULD FIGURE PROMINENTLY IN THE GRANTING OF CERTAIN LUCRATIVE GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS..."
"PLEASE CONVEY CEREBUS' COMPLIMENTS TO HER. CEREBUS IS MOST ANXIOUS TO SEE YOU BOTH AND HOPES YOUR REPLY WILL NOT BE LONG-DELAYED. SINCERELY YOURS, ETC. ETC."
CEREBUS ONLY WISHES HE COULD BE THERE WHEN GREELY READS THAT LAST PART....
LIFE IS JUST FULL OF LITTLE FRUSTRATIONS FOR YOU, ISN'T IT?

THE NEXT MORNING.
BAM.
ALL RIGHT.. YOU DON'T HAVE TO RUB IT IN.
BIP!
YOU RUBBED IT IN WHEN YOU BEAT CEREBUS IN THE FIRST GAME
CEREBUS IS GOING TO DROP YOU INTO THE HARBOUR...
CONSIDER IT YOUR FIRST LESSON IN BEING A GOOD LOSER.
AND IF YOU USE ANY ELF-DUST OR SOMETHING TO SAVE YOURSELF CEREBUS IS...NEVER... GOING...
...TO...


DASH IT ALL -- IT'S GETTING TO THE POINT WHERE A RANKING DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE CAN'T PLAY AN UNINTERRUPTED GAME OF WICKETS WITH HIS ELF!
THIS HAD BETTER BE IMPORTANT
A LETTER, M'LORD.
FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE...
WELL DON'T JUST STAND THERE
READ IT, MAN... YOU'RE HOLDING UP CEREBUS' GAME!
THE PRIME MINISTER WISHES TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR RECENT LETTER OF INTENT AND HOPES YOU WILL NOT BE FORCED TO SEEK EMPLOYMENT TO REPAY THE RANSOM
MM
THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO WISHES TO CONVEY GREETINGS TO YOU FROM YOUR GOOD FRIEND NED GREELY WHO STOPPED BY FOR A CASUAL VISIT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT. MR. GREELY ALSO HOPES THAT THE MATTER CAN BE SETTLED WITH AS LITTLE PERSONAL DIFFICULTY TO YOURSELF AS POSSIBLE. HE SPOKE MOST PERSUASIVELY AND AT SOME LENGTH ON THIS VERY POINT...
THE PRIME MINISTER HAS ENCLOSED AN INVITATION TO JOIN HIM IN HIS WEEKLY PHEASANT HUNT THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW...
...WHERE HE HOPES THE TWO OF YOU MAY BE ABLE TO REACH A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT ON REIMBURSEMENT
TELL THE PRIME MINISTER CEREBUS WILL BE DELIGHTED TO JOIN HIM
... AND HAVE A DOZEN ROSES SENT TO MRS. GREELY.
YES, M'LORD.

HE DOESN'T KNOW I EXIST YOU KNOW.
OBVIOUSLY.
THEN WHY TALK ABOUT ME? HE'LL ONLY THINK YOU'RE...
...CRAZY.
CEREBUS KNOWS THAT.
BUT WHY WOULD YOU...
LORD JULIUS ALWAYS SAID THAT INSANITY WAS THE LAST LINE OF DEFENCE FOR THE MASTER BUREAUCRAT
I DON'T GET IT.
IT'S HARD TO GET A REFUND WHEN THE SALESMAN IS SNIFFING YOUR CROTCH AND BAYING AT THE MOON
OH-- I GET IT NOW.
INSANITY IS A VIRTUALLY IMPREGNABLE GAMBIT...
BUT YOU HAVE TO LAY THE GROUNDWORK EARLY IN THE GAME...
CRAK
REMATCH?
SURE.

SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NEXT?
CEREBUS IS GOING TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO GET SOMEONE TO GIVE HIM THE MONEY TO PAY BACK HIS RANSOM.
AND THEN?
AND THEN CEREBUS IS GOING TO PAY IT BACK
YOUR SHOT ...
AND THEN?
THEN CEREBUS IS GOING TO GET AS MUCH MONEY FOR HIMSELF AS HE CAN GET...
AND THEN?
AND THEN CEREBUS IS GOING TO BUY EVERYTHING HE ALWAYS WANTED...
LIKE WHAT?
LIKE A QUIET ELF
HUH!?
SHUT UP AND PLAY ...

THE AARDVARKIAN AGE

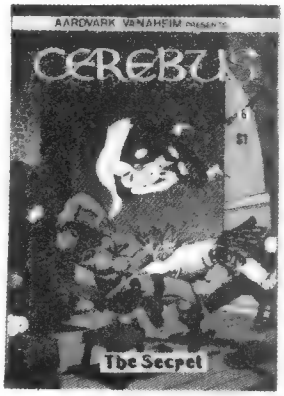
DESIGNED BY MICHAEL LOUBERT

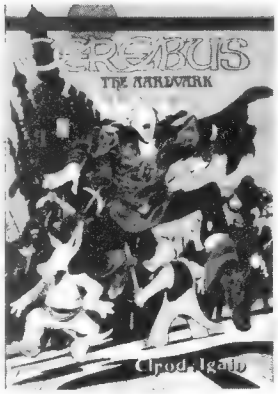
make cheques payable to:

NOW & THEN BOOKS

103 Queen St. S.
Kitchener, Ontario

Back Issues





No. 2 $10.00 **No. 6 $3.50** **No. 7 $3.00** **No. 8 $3.00**

9-10 $3.00 ea. 11-15 $2.00 ea. 16-24 $1.50 ea. 25¢ postage per book
Swords of Cerebus Vol. 1 $5.00 - 75¢ postage and handling
Swords of Cerebus Vol. 2 $5.00 - 75¢ postage and handling

Original Artwork

$25 per page

Pages available:

No. 1 pgs. 3, 6, 8, 14, 15, 17, 19, 20, 21.
No. 2 pgs. 1, 5, 6, 10, 11, 20, 21, 22.
No. 3 pgs. 3, 7, 8, 9, 13, 15, 17, 18, 21.
No. 5 pgs. 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 16.
No. 8 pg. 15.
No. 9 pgs. 18, 21.
No. 10 pgs. 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 21.
No. 11 pgs. 2, 17, 21, 22.
No. 12 pg. 22.
No. 13 pgs. 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 17, 19, 21.
No. 14 pgs. 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 16, 17, 19, 20.

$30 per page

No. 15 pgs. 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 18, 20.
No. 16 pgs. 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15 18, 19, 20.
No. 17 pgs. 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 19, 20.
No. 18 pgs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20.
No. 19 pgs. 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, 14, 18.
No. 20 pgs. 1, 7, 13, 17, 19, 20.
No. 21 pgs. 1, 4, 9, 10, 12, 14, 16, 17, 20.
No. 22 pgs. 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16.
No. 23 pgs. 3, 5, 6, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19.

Demonhorn Story (Nucleus) pgs. 3, 4, 5.

Beaver's Buttons available in limited quantities for $1. plus 25¢ postage

Subscriptions

12 issues for $21.00 (includes all postage)
wrapped securely and mailed flat.
indicate which issue subscription starts with.

Poster

$2.50 each
(signed and numbered)
4 colour 1977

Beavers Strip Originals

(1976-1977)
$8.00 ea.

THE BEAVERS
WE NEVER HAVE ANY GOOD COOKIES AROUND HERE...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN I BOUGHT FOUR PACK OF THEM... OATMEAL GINGER SNAPS, MALLOWS...
YES, BUT WE DON'T HAVE ANY FUDGE DELIGHTS
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU ATE ALL OF THEM IN ONE DAY!
YOU SHOULDN'T LET THINGS UPSET YOU SO MUCH, REX.

Other "Sim Stuff"

Octoberfest 1 (1976) Dave Sim and Gene Day ... $1.00 ea.
Star*Reach 7 $1.50 ea.
Imagine 1 & 4 $1.50 ea.

Phantacea 1 $1.25 ea.
Quack 3, 4, & 5 $1.50 ea.
Nucleus 1 $1.75 ea.
Cerebus Story: "Demonhorn"

AARDVARK COMMENT

P.O. BOX 1674, STATION 'C', KITCHENER, ONTARIO N2G 4R2

Thanks to a national postal strike and the resultant shortage of intelligent letters, Dave Sim wishes to announce a Formal Padding of the Letters Page, (tie optional) to commence below with the Wit and Foolishness of Mike Bannon of Dubuque (give me a "D") Iowa. Take it away, Mike:

Dear Deni:

Thank you for your letter and comment about my letter and comments on the book. Your letter will be appearing in my top desk drawer as soon as I straighten it out. I hope that you will continue to enjoy reading my letters.

Sincerely,
Mike Bannon,
Nobody in Particular

And then Mike wrote:

Dear Dave:

This might be a silly question and perhaps I'm a mad fool for asking, but can Cerebus play the harmonica?

Mike Bannon,
2453 Martin Drive,
Dubuque, Iowa
52001

No, Mike, his snout keeps getting sucked into the little holes when he breathes in. Two. Three. Four. But seriously....

David, Deni:

Hmm....in Cerebus #26 you devoted the entire letter column to Fred Patten's thoughtful thoughts concerning Cerebus. And Deni's editorial/note stated "We savour every good letter ... so what you say about Cerebus means a great deal to us ... we like to believe that you are much more intelligent than what I feel some other publishers (I won't name any names) like to believe."

And you mean to tell me that you have the *nerve* to print one of *my* letters?!?

Thoroughly frumpled,

Mike Bannon,
2453 Martin Drive,
Dubuque, Iowa,
52001

P.S. Never mind about the harmonica ... what I *really* want to know is if Cerebus can juggle oranges and tap dance on hard-boiled eggs!!

Isn't he wonderful ladies and gentlemen? He'll be back later in the show. Thank you, Mike....

Dear Dave,

I just wrote to say congratulations for issue #23. The cover is *beautiful*. A great improvement over the reproductions of earlier covers.

About the "Swords of Cerebus" which I first heard about last summer from you...I think that some issue(s) should contain the stuff you did for *The Buyer's Guide*. I never was able to get these anywhere. So my personal collection will be incomplete until *someone* reprints them. Please do it.

I'm interested in a Cerebus cover. I'm the guy who bought Cerebus #1 page 1, which hangs over my desk, where sits my sketch of Cerebus, down the hall from my Cerebus poster. I'm interested in the cover to #25. Although I've yet to see it, I have this thing for issues that are multiples of twenty-five. This is caused by growing up with comics, you know. If that isn't possible, my next choice is #15, if it isn't already sold. Otherwise please send me a list of what is available (with prices!)

Now, when are we going to find out about Palnu? You *can't* just leave us hanging forever. I want to see Cerebus lick Apricot Brandy from Jaka's navel. And Lord Julius is too fine a character to abandon like that. *Resolve the storyline!*

Please....

You know I wish I could think of some constructive criticism. But Cerebus is so consistently the best. Keep it up. Some day there may be a sprawling Aardvarkian comics empire. You deserve it.

Steve Hendricks,
415 S. Chauncey #6
W. Lafayette, IN
47906

I shant resolve the story-line, I shant *and you can't make me, you...you...* villain! *Tell ya what I'm going to do, Steve. If you send me the original art of the Cerebus Quixote drawing from the second issue of the newsletter, I'll send you the preliminary thumb-nail paintings of the cover to issue #25. That's the best I can do until I decide whether or not I'm going to sell any of the painted covers. What's the next book in the series after Cerebus the Freelance Photographer?*

Dear Dave and Deni:

After having read 24 issues of Cerebus, I felt I had to write. I originally bought issues 15 and 16 out of curiosity, then went back the same night and bought 17-22, and ordered all available back issues that week. With my copy of Swords of Cerebus, I've read all 24 issues, and have nothing but praise. I love the stories, the satire, the action, the art, and above all the humor. Cerebus is the only writing that consistently makes me laugh out loud (embarassing at times) since Spike Milligan and the Goon Shows. Congratulations on a terrific job.

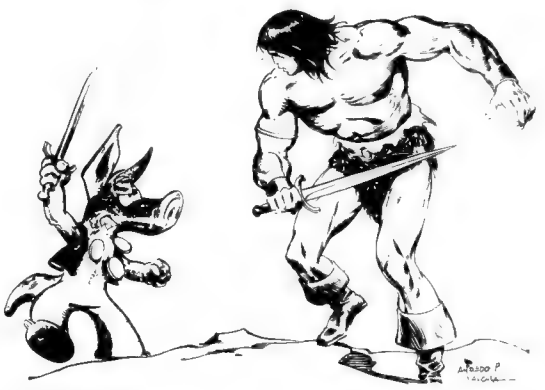
As insightful as most of your fan letters seem, however, I'm surprised that no mention has been made of your obvious involvement with the Illuminati. The "eye in the pyramid" in 15; "President Weisshaupt" (the George Washington Look-alike) in 22; "Cerebus" - 7 letters; when added to "Aardvark-Vanaheim" we reach the mystic 23, summing to five; the clues are everywhere. I know *They* may think I'm paranoid, but look around. They're everywhere!!! AArrgghh!!

I've enclosed a copy of an original piece I had Alfredo Alcala do for me of Conan vs. Cerebus. Hope you enjoy it. Hope to meet you sometime and have a real "Sim" Cerebus done...Will you be at the San Diego Con?

Thanks again for a great comic.

Glen McFerren,
2505 "A" West Curie,
Santa Ana, California
92704

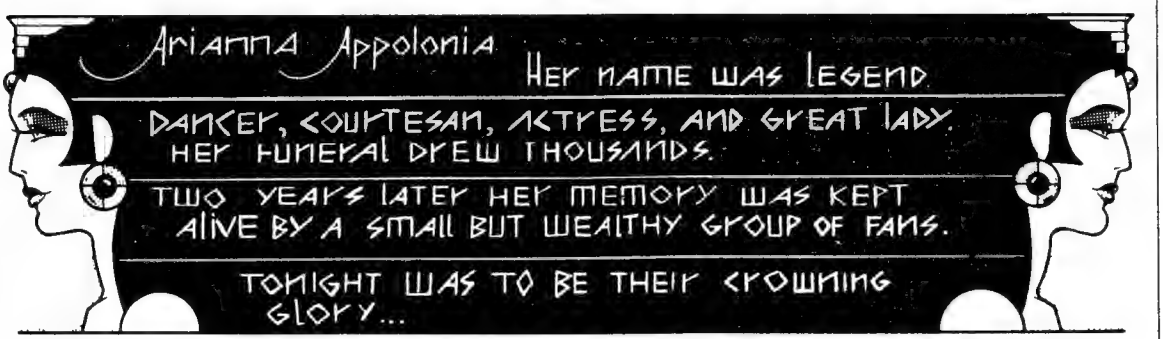
Glen got his original "Sim" sketch (I grew the quotation marks on my last name especially for San Diego) at the con. Elsewhere reprinted on these pages is the sketch Glen mentioned in his letter. Wasn't that nice of Glen, everyone? Everyone say, "Thank you, Glen and Alfredo." One, Two, three....



AARDVARK-VANAHEIM PRESENTS

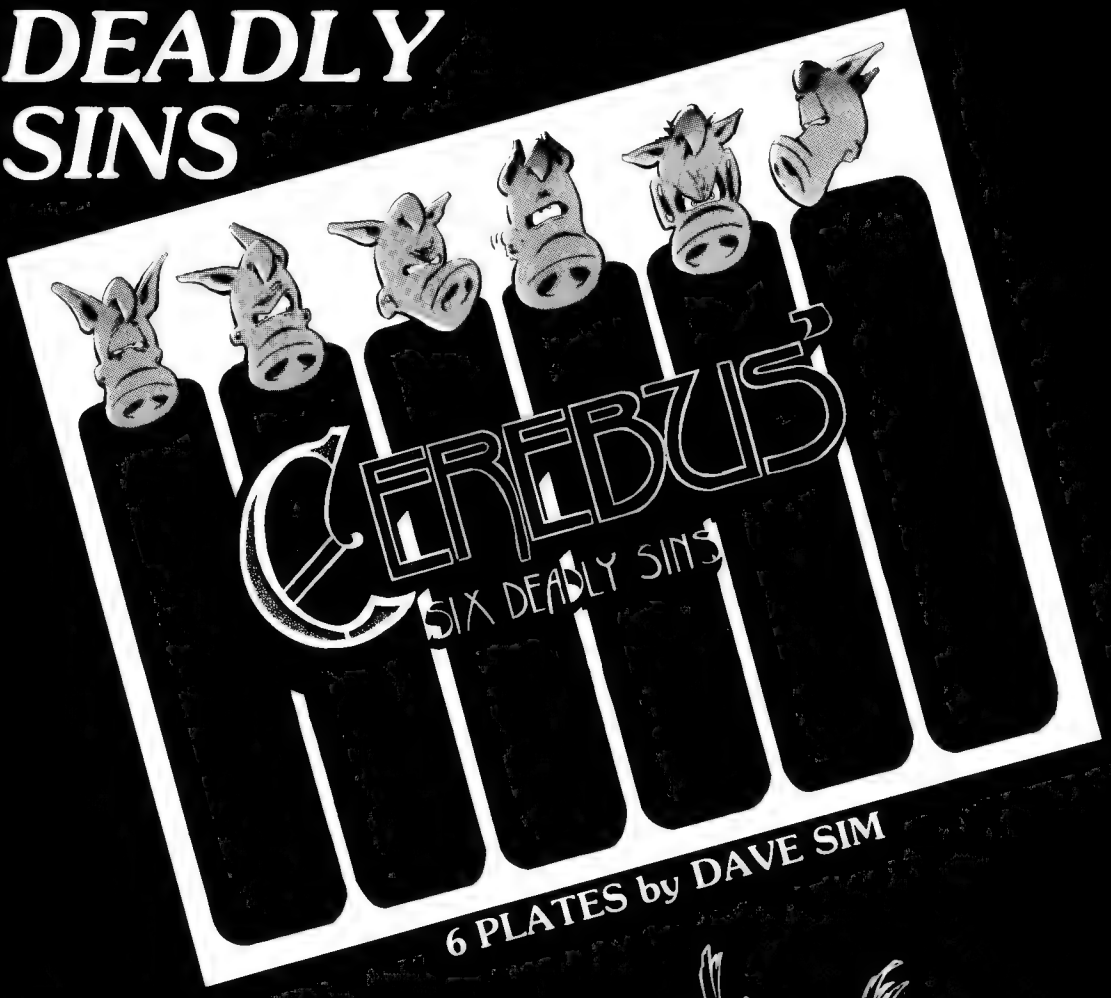
UNIQUE STORIES

NEIL THE HORSE (and Soapy) **by Arn Saba**


Arianna Appolonia
Her name was legend
Dancer, courtesan, actress, and great lady.
Her funeral drew thousands.
Two years later her memory was kept alive by a small but wealthy group of fans.
Tonight was to be their crowning glory...

THE SALAMANDERS **by Brent Alan Richardson**

CEREBUS' SIX DEADLY SINS



SLOTH
ENVY
AVARICE
GREED
ANGER
PRIDE

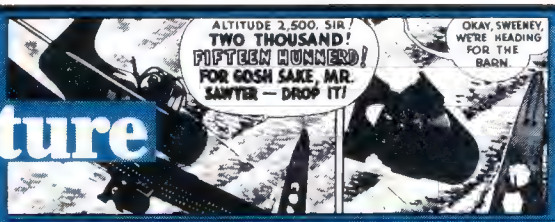
$12.00

Schanes and Schanes

NO DEALERS QUANTITIES AVAILABLE

Schanes and Schanes, 4887 Ronson Ct. Suite E., San Diego, California 92111

Classic Adventure Strips!

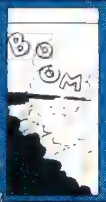


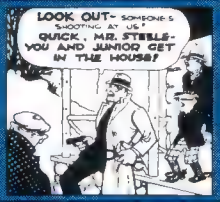
BUZ SAWYER #1 & 2
by Roy Crane

Buz Sawyer's love affair on Christmas Eve, 1941—after he fights the Japanese in the Pacific. His scout bomber is shot down . . . he's interned on an enemy island . . . meets a beautiful native girl . . . and you can read the rest. Artist Roy Crane is highly acclaimed for creating one of the all-time best-drawn and best-written adventure strips. No funky "old" strip, this ranks with Raymond's Flash Gordon and Foster's Prince Valiant.
Each: $3.95
Save! #1 & 2 $7.50

DICK TRACY: TOMMYGUNS AND HARD TIMES
by Chester Gould

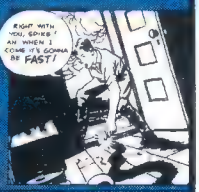
OOF! A hefty 285 pages of stories straight from 1931 to 1933! Almost two complete years of "Plain Clothes Tracy," as he was first called. Fast-paced danger and mystery with the world's most famous detective. Plus a great color section with 16 pages of 1932 Sunday Pages. **$9.95**





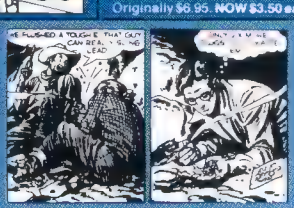
SCORCHY SMITH **NOW at HALF PRICE!**

Artist Noel Sickles was an innovator who thrilled readers of this exciting strip and inspired the next generation of artists. Considered one of the very finest airplane strips.
#1: SOLDIER OF FORTUNE –Embroiled in a South American revolution.
#2: PARTNERS IN DANGER –Off to Algiers and Africa for wild stunts and dangerous escapades!
Originally $6.95. **NOW $3.50 each.** **Save! #1 & 2 $6.50**



SKYMASTERS
by Jack Kirby & Wallace Wood

Man in space! Before Jack began working at Marvel and just after Wood ended his career at EC Comics, these two great talents collaborated on a short-lived adventure strip. Here is the complete 245 episode run in an inexpensive edition. **$3.95**



RIP KIRBY #1 & 2
by Alex Raymond

The "gentleman detective" begins his adventure among the glamorous beauties of Hollywood—but ends up fighting thugs on a lonely island in the Pacific. Raymond quit Flash Gordon to devote himself to this dashing and romantic strip, yet it contains all the elegant art and fascinating women that made the stories on Mongo so popular.
Each: $3.95
Save! #1 & 2 $7.50

NOW at HALF PRICE!

TERRY AND THE PIRATES
by Milton Caniff

Interesting characters . . . snappy, contemporary dialogue . . . solid plots . . . exotic locales. Caniff brought all this and more to Terry, creating one of the best-loved adventure strips of all time. Large 96 page softcovers
MEET BURMA • CHINA JOURNEY
Originally $6.95. **NOW $3.95 each.**

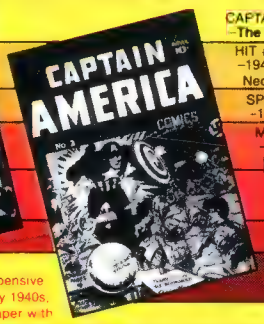
LESS than HALF PRICE!

SECRET AGENT X-9
by Alex Raymond & Dashiell Hammett

. One of the all-time great **lone heroes** He fights gunfire with gunfire . . matches racketeers' cunning with his finely trained wits . . . faces any risk to bring the underworld to justice. A very thick 176-page softcover, including X-9's first adventures—five of them—from 1934 & 1935
Originally $8.95. **NOW $3.95**

Capt. America & Marvel Comics
© Marvel Comics Group

FLASHBACK! FLASHBACK!



CAPTAIN AMERICA #2
–**The original!** Simon & Kirby, 1940
HIT #1
–1940: The Red Bee, Hercules, Neon the Unknown
SPY SMASHER #1
–1941 hero from Whiz Comics
MARVEL COMICS #4
–Human Torch & The Sub-Mariner from 1939!
AMERICA'S GREATEST #1
–Capt. Marvel, Bulletman, Mr. Scarlet, 132 pages
ALL AMERICAN #24
–Green Lantern, The Atom
SILVER STREAK #6
–The Original Daredevil
PEP #17
–Origin of The Hangman

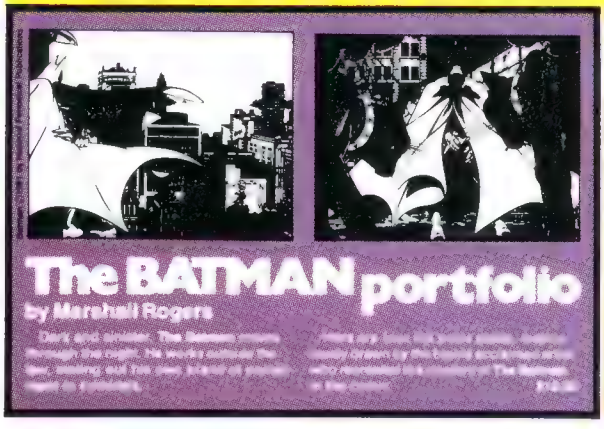
Complete reprints of rare and expensive Golden Age comics from the early 1940s, these are reproduced on good paper with heavy, full color covers. **One of our most popular titles!** Each has 64 pages!
Each: $3.50 **Save!** Pick any 5 for just **$16**

Elric of Melnibone

THE VANISHING TOWER

by Michael Moorcock
Illustrations by
Michael Whelan

An exciting novel of swords & sorcery in a limited, deluxe edition. An exquisite leatherette binding and matching box enclose hours of top-notch reading. Whelan's color & b&w illustrations perfectly complement Moorcock's most famous character.
Limited to 2200 copies. **$25**



The BATMAN portfolio

by Marshall Rogers

Dark and sinister, **The Batman portfolio** features eight of the most memorable pages ever drawn by Marshall Rogers, the world's foremost Batman artist. Each page is suitable for framing, and has been signed and numbered by the artist.
Limited to a numbered edition of 2,000 copies. **$75.00**

Please send me: **(We'll enclose our catalog FREE with any order.)**

Flashback:
☐ **Capt. America** ☐ **Marvel** ☐ **America's**
☐ **Hit** ☐ **All American** ☐ **Silver Streak**
☐ **Spy Smasher** ☐ **Pep**—$3.50 each
or ☐ any 6 for $15.

Terry & the Pirates:
☐ **Burma**
☐ **China**—$3.95 each

☐ **Dick Tracy**—$9.95
☐ **Skymasters**—$3.95
☐ **Batman Portfolio**—$10
☐ **The Vanishing Tower**—$25
☐ **Secret Agent X-9**—$3.95

Rip Kirby ☐1, ☐2—$3.95 each, ☐1&2 for $7.50.
Scorchy Smith ☐1, ☐2—$3.50 each, ☐1&2 for $6.50.
Buz Sawyer ☐1, ☐2—$3.95 each, ☐1&2 for $7.50.

☐ **Send catalog only.** Enclosed is $1 (includes postage), refundable with my first order.

Master Card & Visa customers:
Call in your order TOLL FREE!
Phone **800-824-6532**
9am–5pm Mon–Fri, PST
Sorry no CODs
Minimum order $10
Available all states except CA, HI, AK

POSTAGE	
If order is:	**add**
up to $9.99 –	$1.50
$10 to $24.99 –	$2.00
$25.00 & up –	**Free Postage**

Order Total: $ _____
Postage: $ _____
Calif. residents add 6% sales tax: $ _____
Total: $ _____

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____

BUD PLANT, INC. P.O. Box 1886C6, Grass Valley, California 95945

CEREBUS
ARCHIVE

"San Diego Comicon programming schedule 1981. My only appearance was as part of the Cerebus Fan Club meeting. That's pretty much how CEREBUS was viewed at the time by most people: as a fantasy fan phenomenon, like filk-singing."

- Dave Sim

THE 1981 SAN DIEGO CON SCHEDULE

Thursday

10:00 "This Island Earth" (Don Room)
Noon The Dr. Who Slideshow (Eric Hoffman) (Int'l room)
1:30 "Start the Revolution Without Me" (Don Room)
2:30 An Hour with Dick Giordano (Int'l)
3:30 "Three Stooges Festival" (Don Room)
3:30 Dave Graue: Life with Oop (Int'l)
4:30 Film TBA (Don Room)
4:30 The Art of Robert Williams slideshow (Int'l)
5:30 Cerebus Fan Club meeting (Dave Sim, Fred Patten, and friends) (Cotillion)
7:00 'Bambi Meets Godzilla', 'Twilight Zone', 'Bruce Lee Screentest" (Don Room)
7:30 The Complete Works of Nelvana Studios (Int'l)
Film TBA (Don Room)
10:00 "Animal Crackers" (Int'l)
11:30 "Night of the Living Dead" (Don Room)
12:30 "Dead of Night" (Don Room)
2:30 Late Night Films (Don Room)

Friday

8:30 Masquerade runthru (Int'l)
9:00 Superman Festival (Don Room)
10:00 SF in comics panel (Julius Schwartz, Dave Graue, Walt Simonson) (Int'l)
Blood Dries (Poolview room)
"Invasion of the Body Snatchers" (Don Room)
11:30 Doug Wildey: Johnny Quest, Ambler, and a cast of thousands (Int'l)
Noon Meet L.B. Cole (Cotillion room)
"Future-world" (Don Room)
12:30 Moon Knight (Doug Moench, Bill Sienkiewicz) (Int'l)
1:30 CONAN & Me (Paul Sammon) (Int'l)
2:00 The Lighter Side of Dave Berg (Cotillion)
Film Noir TBA (Don Room)
2:30 Secret Origins of Fandom (Julius Schwartz, Jerry Bails, Roy Thomas, Murray Ward, Mike Friedrich) (Int'l)
3:30 Gary Owens: Foomaneisters and Krelmen (Int'l)
4:00 "The Brides of Dracula" (Don Room)
4:30 "Superboman: The Other Movie" (Int'l)
Distributor's meeting (Mike Friedrich) (Exec. Board room)
6:00 San Diego Con Film Festival (Don Room)
8:00 "Beginning of the End" (Don Room)
8:30 Masquerade (MC Gary Owens; plus Dr. Raoul Duke and his All-Human Orchestra, and charmin' Sharman Divono, the Belly-dancing Mechanic) (Int'l)
9:00 Retailer's meeting (Mike Friedrich) (Exec. Board Room)
9:30 "The Blob" (Don Room)
10:00 Films by the pool: Star Trek "The Deadly Years" plus 007 Feature
1:00 Late night films (Don Room)

Saturday

6:00 "Attack of the Crab Monster" (Don Room)
8:00 "I Was a Teenage Frankenstein" (Don Room)
9:00 Cartoons (Don Room)
10:00 Relevancy in Comics (Denny O'Neil, Frank Miller, Doug Moench, Marv Wolfman, Roy Thomas) (Int'l)
11:00 Jim FitzPatrick - Celtic Mythology (Cotillion)
San Diego Con Film Festival (Don Room)
Noon Art auction (Pool area)
Marvel Productions Presents (Int'l)
12:30 Underground Comix panel (Clay Geerdes, S. Clay Wilson, and others) (Cotillion)
1:30 What is an Editor? - (Julius Schwartz, Jim Shooter, Len Wein, Louise Jones, Dick Giordano) (Int'l)
2:00 Karl Hubenthal's History of Political Cartooning (Cotillion)
San Diego Con Film Festival (Don room)
3:00 Disney's CONDORMAN (Mike Royer) (Int'l)
4:00 Independent Creator's Panel - (Richard Pini, Wendy Pini, Dave Sim, Jack Katz, Mike Grell) (Cotillion)
"The Thing" (Don Room)
4:30 THE CREATURE WASN'T NICE preview (Bruce Kimmel and David Blankstead) (Int'l)
5:30 Film TBA (Don Room)
6:00 The Fantastic World of Ray Bradbury (Int'l)
Bil Keane's Family Circus (Cotillion)
6:30 Ed "Big Daddy" Roth (Cotillion)
7:30 Inkpot Awards Banquet (MC Sergio Aragones)
10:00 "Those Extraordinary Seamen" World Premiere (Don Room)
11:00 "A Clockwork Orange" (Don Room)
1:30 Late Night Films

Sunday

9:00 Cartoons (Don Room)
10:00 Jack Katz - The First Kingdom (Cotillion)
Three "Twilight Zone" episodes (Don Room)
11:00 Richard Alan Murray - The Artist's Life (Cotillion)
Artist's Free-for-all starts (Pool area)
11:30 20 Years of Marvel Comics (featuring a whole bunch of the folks who made them) (Int'l)
Noon Art Auction (Pool area)
1:00 HEAVY METAL preview (Michael Green, John Bruno, Craig Miller) (Int'l)
Film TBA (Don Room)
2:00 Bill Woggon and Katy Keene (Cotillion)
2:30 BLADERUNNER/THE WOLFEN slideshow (Jeff Walker) (Int'l)
4:00 Con Talk-back (Int'l)
"It Came From Beneath the Sea" (Don Room)

Workshops and Information

ARTIST'S WORKSHOPS
Board Room

Thursday 12:00 Bill Sienkiewicz
1:00 Dick Giordano
Friday 11:00 Jack Katz
3:00 Dave Graue
Saturday 11:00 Karl Hubenthal
3:00 Irina Robbins

ANIMATION WORKSHOP
Poolview Room

Saturday 10:00-1:00 Scott Shawl,
Sunday 10:00-1:00 Lee Sullivan, and Tim Walker

WRITER'S WORKSHOP
Executive Board Room

Saturday 2:00-5:00 Roy Thomas
Doug Moench

WARGAMING
California Room

Friday 1:00-5:00 SUPERHERO 2044 (Novice/demo game)
Saturday 1:00-5:00 SUPERVILLAIN 2044 (Advanced/variant game)
7:00-11:00 SUPERHERO 2044 (Novice game)

(Advance sign-ups in California Room)

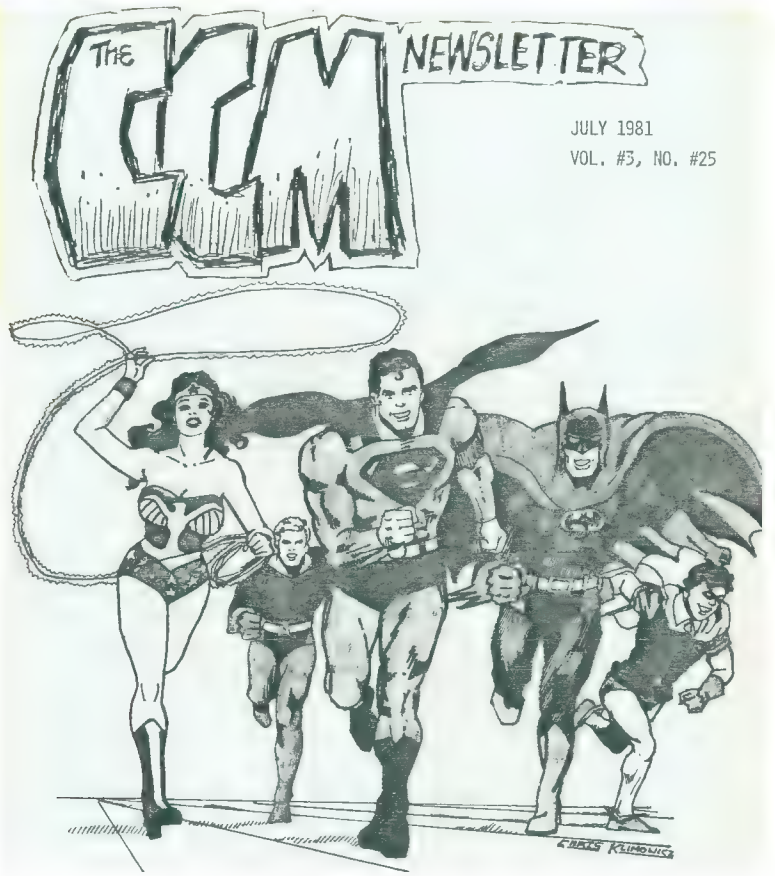
DEALER'S ROOM HOURS
Century Room

Thursday 12:00 M to 9:00 PM
Friday 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM
Saturday 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM
Sunday 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM

☆☆ Please consult COMIC CONSCIOUSNESS for daily updates. ☆☆

"David Caruba, the president of CCM (COMIC CLUB MAPLEWOOD) of Maplewood New Jersey asked me to do a logo for their club zine. I really should have taken a LITTLE more time with it."

- Dave Sim



"David Caruba's review of CEREBUS in that issue."

- Dave Sim

REVIEW
By David Caruba

Over the past few months, Comic Club Maplewood has received many publications. The bulk is being reviewed in this column. The club invites submissions of any publication. These should be sent to: Comic Club Maplewood; 28 Kendal Avenue; Maplewood, N.J. 07040.

As can be expected, a large portion of the publications that were received were club newsletters. A prime example is the Mobile Area Comic Society #8, a fourteen page monthly newsletter put out by the members of the Mobile Alabama Comics Society. Subscription cost is $3.00 yearly and can be obtained by writing the club at 402-c Crenshaw Street; Mobile, Al. 36606. Unlike many club newsletters that tend to be commercially oriented, The Mobile Society's is directed toward its members. Issues always open with a message from the club president and include numerous features such as comic news, members' profiles, interviews with professionals, and reviews.

Unlike many club newsletters, the Pittsburgh Comix Club's newsletter, Thought Balloons #1, is professionally printed (as opposed to Xeroxed) on red paper adding a nice effect to the overall feel of the four page newsletter. It is available through the Pittsburgh Comix Club; 827 Anaheim Street; Pittsburgh, Pa. 15219. Like the Mobile Alabama newsletter, the first issue of this publication is directed toward the club's members. This issue introduces the newsletter and contains no features other than club-related news. Editor-In-Chief Gary Sassaman put this issue out single handedly and is thus deserving of my respect and a two week vacation.

The most impressive commercial club newsletter that I have seen to date is entitled It's a Fanzine and is put out by the Des Moines Comic Club; 3405 Woodland Avenue #90D; West Des Moines, Iowa 50265 for the price of $3.00 plus one 18¢ stamp for six issues. This slick, professional, twelve page newsletter is in digest size and format (eight and a half by seven). The fanzine is loaded with art and stories that make it capable of being sold at comic specialty stores.

Independantly published comic books (both professional and fan) have been growing in popularity for the last few years. Cerebus the Aardvark is the leader of this movement. Cerebus #26 is in comic format, complete with a color cover, black and white interior, and a genius writer/artist by the name of Dave Sim. In every issue we are taken through the humorous world of an aardvark who has a knack of getting himself into trouble, starting bar fights, and drinking apricot brandy. This comic is number one on my monthly list and is worth every penny of the $1.50 price for all twenty-eight classic pages. Subscriptions are available from Now and Then Books; 103 Queen Street South; Kitchener, Ontario; Canada.

Adventures in Fantasy is a comic printed in newsletter format for 75¢ an issue by BAM Comics; 47 Headley Place; Maplewood, N.J. 07040. This eight page publication gets an "E" for effort, but that's the extent of it. The main story, a four page comic featuring a barbarian named "Deathlord", lacks any quality that would merit the cover price. Deathlord's vocabulary is so offensive, so foul, and so down-right vulgar that it destroys any chance of the reader enjoying the story. Although Deathlord does have a sensible plot, the art has a consistency that is very reminiscent of kindergarden drawings. Even with two back up features, a short story and a comic strip, this publication's only appeal is to very young readers who hold no appreciation of quality.

Thankfully, The Adventures of Captain Starblei #1 does show that a fan comic can contain quality. This comic, along with many others, is put out by the Galaxy Comics Group; 3700 Densmore Avenue North; Seattle, Wa. 98103. The Galaxy Comics Group are fans who enjoy putting together comics. Although their work is by no means pro, it is nicely done and enjoyable to read. $3.00 gets you a years worth of all their publications.

Lastly, Kenny Moran (216B Sherbrook Street; Winnipeg, Manitoba; R3C-2B6, Canada) is an artist who prints his own material. His newest is an eight page mini (five and a half by four and a forth inch) comic enti-

"First issue of the COMIC INFORMER where I was stunned to find out that Neal Adams was actually reading the issues I'd been sending to Continuity Associates!"

- Dave Sim

THE COMIC INFORMER

JULY 1981

$1.00

FIRST ISSUE

IN THIS ISSUE

THE NEAL ADAMS INTERVIEW
COSMIC DUCK BY NEWSOME
AND MORE

"You'll notice that I absolutely HAD to deface the publication with a yellow highlighter pen even though I had the entire quote memorized by the end of the first half hour it was in the office. What a fanboy!"

- Dave Sim

Adams: I think Daredevil compliments Batman.

J.R.: What do you think of Moon Knight?

Adams: I think if Bill took about twice as long as he does he'd probably do a lot better. His stuff looks like my old Deadman stuff. Sloppy. Looks like he is inking with a chicken claw.

Wolff: What do you think of John Romita Jr.?

Adams: You know, when you think of John Romita Jr., doesn't everybody kind of go (perplexed look on face) "Yeah, it's pretty good . . . hard to say, y'know?"

Wolff: What of Bob Leyton?

Adams (looking at J.R.): Is he serious?

J.R.: He asked a question.

Adams: Bob Leyton is trying . . very trying. A lot of guys are trying to do a good job. Some of them are doing a good job and some are trying to do a good job. Bob is doing a pretty good job.

Wolff: Have you ever read any alternative comics such as Elfquest by the Pinis, or Cerebus the Aardvark by David Sim?

Adams: I tried to read Elfquest, and think that it is a terrific effort by Wendy Pini and her husband Richard. I personally find it difficult to read. Cerebus the Aardvark . . . I think Sim ought to be arrested for pistol-whipping a poor aardvark into having those crazy adventures. Poor aardvark, taken out of the jungle and forced into doing all that weird stuff.

J.R.: Did you ever read any of the Englehart/Rogers/Austin issues of Detective Comics?

Adams: Yes. I enjoyed them.

Wolff: There seems to be a lot more graphic novels now than last year. Why?

Adams: There are a lot of different reasons. First, comic novels are the way of the future. It's not going to be much longer that comic books are going to survive being printed on crappy paper and cheap reproduction.

J.R.: I understand that European comics are printed on good stock paper.

Adams: Yes, all of them, and pretty soon all American comics will have to do the same. The problem with good stock is that good stock doesn't take the kind of reproduction that bad stock takes. You can't print those flat colors on glossy stock. Sooner or later they've got to

develop better color techniques on glossy stock. Like the stuff that you see in Epic or Heavy Metal.

J.R.: Do you draw with the intent of having good color reproduction?

Adams: I draw with the knowledge that the color reproduction is not going to be good, but with the hope that one day it will be better, so I maintain a certain standard of art quality in hopes that the quality of reproduction will end up being good. That's a double standard and very hard to maintain.

Wolff: Do you know who in advance is going to ink your work?

Adams: Yes . . always, unless someone really screws up.

Wolff: When you hear who's going to ink your work, do you try to draw for that particular inker?

Adams: Yes. Sometimes I'll draw tighter for Dick Giordano so he won't be sloppy. And I can draw a little bit looser for Tom Palmer. That's because Tom always adds stuff. He's like a machine. Can't stop.

J.R.: Is this your first time in Houston, or have you been here before?

Adams: Been here before.

J.R.: Do you like Houston?

Adams: Very nice and hot. Nice place to be except during the summer. And I wish a little less of the summer was in here right now (referring to the eighty degree-plus temperature in the building).

Wolff: Nannas is going to be a live-action film, isn't it?

Adams: Live-action.

Wolff: Are you planning on any animated projects?

Adams: I would like to do our Bucky O'Hare in animation. That would make a great animated cartoon.

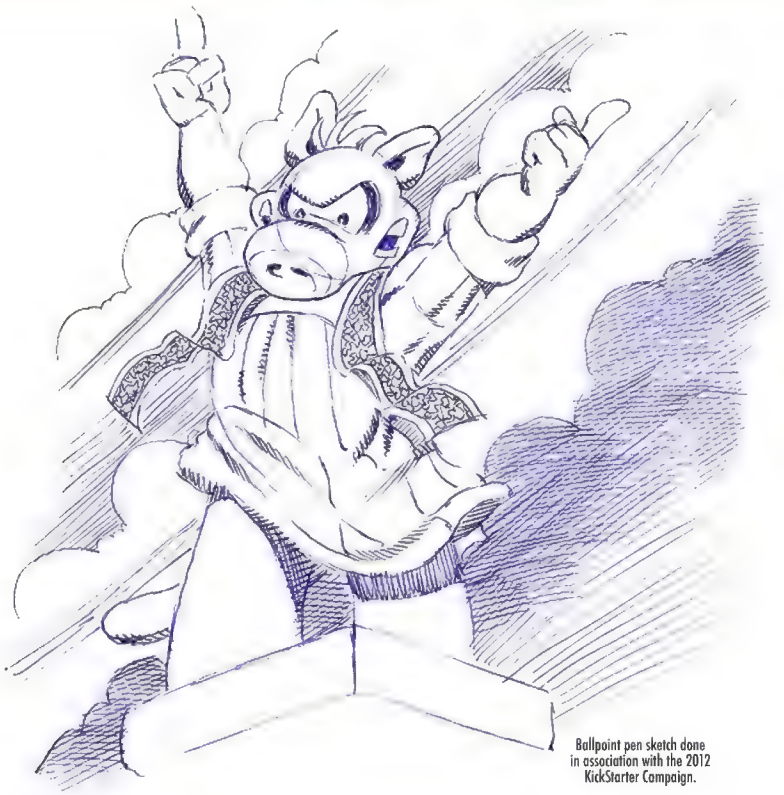
J.R.: Did you enjoy doing The Spectre?

Adams: Yes. I've enjoyed everything I've done. I still do.

J.R.: Do you enjoy working with Chris Claremont on the X-Men graphic novel?

Adams: Chris should've started his career related to me in some strange way. It seems like all his early stuff, just like with John Byrne, was re-do's of stuff that I have done.

Wolff: I saw the Westworld poster you did in one of your portfolios, but I



Ballpoint pen sketch done in association with the 2012 KickStarter Campaign.

"Carl Barks' letter. I had completely forgotten that No.26's Aardvark Comment contained my dispute (or "dispute", depending on your point of view) with Fred Patten about Carl Barks' use of dramatic continuity in a funny animal comic. (I rather naively in retrospect) expected that Mr. Barks would support my observation: that he would change his continuity – like making Donald Duck a museum guard all of a sudden in "The Golden Helmet" – to suit individual stories. Having languished in undeserved obscurity for decades – known only as "the good duck artist" to legions of admirers – it was stupid of me to think that he would take the mention in Aardvark Comment any other way than personally and badly."

- Dave Sim

CARL BARKS
CARTOONIST
(714) 676-4627
31130 S. General Kearney Road (Space 119) • P.O. Box 36 • Temecula, CA 92390

July 9, 1981

Circulation Manager
Aardvark-Vanaheim Press
221 Queen St. South, #1401
Kitchener, Ontario,
CANADA N26 1W5

Dear Sir:

I don't know how I happen to have received copies #26 and 27 of CEREBUS, which were addressed to me c/o Celestial Arts, 231 Adrian Road, Millbrae, Ca. 94630, and which were forwarded on to me by Celestial Arts at considerable expense. I subscribe to very few magazines, mainly because I have so little time to read. I realize that CEREBUS is a very popular publication, and wish that I had time to get acquainted with its material, but I must ask if you couldn't review your reason for sending me the magazine. The material certainly is too expensive to mail out to someone who is unable to enjoy it.

In any case, please do not mail any more copies by way of Celestial Arts.

Sincerely

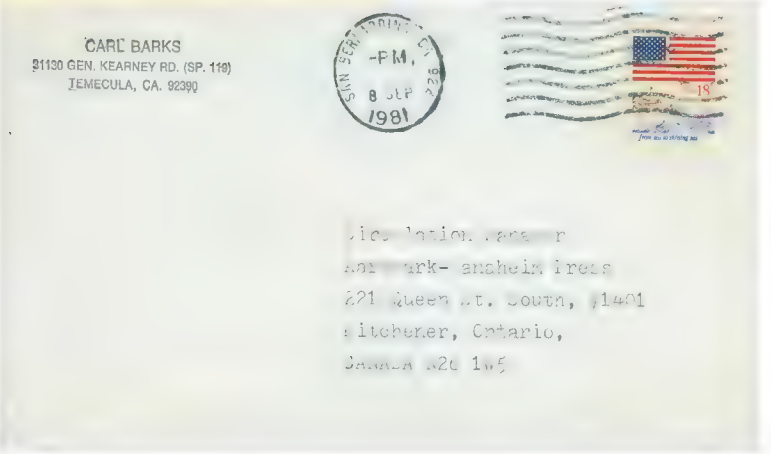
Carl Barks

Carl Barks

This letter was returned by the P.O. once, due to a strike.

"The envelope Carl Barks' letter came in."

- Dave Sim



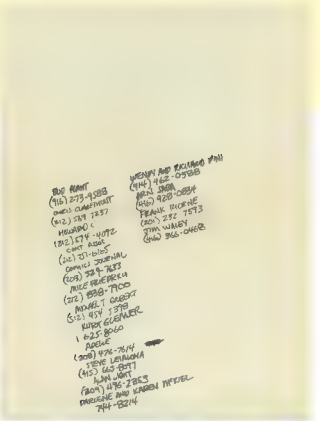
"Very early sketch of what I only knew then as "the Mary Astor character": named for the actress who played the histrionic, pathological liar character, Brigitte O'Shaghnessy in THE MALTESE FALCON – soon to become Astoria (with a different hairdo). It was a sudden inspiration I wanted to get down on paper – not even wanting to find time to locate my notebook, "The Albatross"."

- Dave Sim

"Not sure why I would have written all these phone numbers down. To have my own studio phone directory, maybe? Howard C. is Howard Chaykin. Kurt Glemser was a dealer in bootleg record albums – I got to know him through Harry Kremer of Now & Then Books who sold a LOT of bootleg albums. Kurt was publishing a magazine about bootleg albums called HOT WAX for which I contributed artwork and a comic strip called "Rudy, the World's Rudest Roadie".

Adele is Deni's older sister who went by the name Selu Bear. Darlene and Karen McKiel were the sisters who lived in apartment 1404 (Karen would later become Deni's assistant when we got back from the 1982 Tour). Jim Waley was the publisher of ORB magazine where I was Senior Editor for a brief period in the 1970s just before it went out of business (coincidence?)"

- Dave Sim



before noon 11 06 DIAL DIRECT 011-44-1-980-6167

Mike Lake 5 hours later

TITAN DISTRIBUTORS LTD
P.O. BOX 250
LONDON E3 4RT
ENGLAND
01 980 6167/8
V.A.T. Reg. 245 7546 41

Aardvark Vanaheim Press
221 Queen St. Sth. *1401
Kitchener
Ontario
Canada N2G 1W5

September 8th 1981

Dear Dave,

We wrote a few weeks ago to Now and Then Books to try for a distributor account on Cerebus. We had been getting our copies from Seagate, who now unfortunately don't handle the book, and have been the main supplier of Cerebus to English and European stores.

We are looking for 500 copies of each issue from *25 on and we need to get a 60% discount to make the deal viable. We are willing to pay for the first shipment up front, and hopefully agree credit thereafter. Shipping to either our air or sea freight forwarders in New York would, I imagine, be charged on top? Also urgently needed are back issues: at least 50 of each available issue.

Now and Then were only prepared to give a 45% discount, against the 50% with free shipping which we used to get from Seagate. I'm afraid we just cannot do the job of European distribution at all on 45% plus shipping, especially since the fall in value of the British pound.

Please contact by phone as soon as you can to discuss this (reverse the charges of course) and then we can get started on this quickly. Please contact me at the above number or at home: London (674-8064).

Thanks a lot,

Mike Lake

phoned Oct 6/81 will write back with particulars.

back issues

Reg No 1510986 Directors Mike Lake, Nick Landau, ~~Mike Luckman~~

"Why Deni would need to get Dean Mulaney's address and phone number from Preney Print & Litho – or who there would have misspelled her name – is a mystery, the answer to which is now lost to the ages. Of course it's also inexplicable why I would need Adele's or Darlene and Karen's phone number in the studio. Except if I was up to no good. Which, at the time, I very much was."

- Dave Sim

FROM: Preney Print & Litho Inc.
DEPARTMENT:
TO: Aardvark-Vanaheim Press
221 Queen St. South #1401
Kitchener, Ontario
N2G 1W5
Att.: Deni Sims
DATE: Sept. 17, 198!
SUBJECT: Comic Books
MESSAGE

Deni Sims:

This is the address and phone number of Dean Mullaney at Eclipse Enterprises.

Eclipse Enterprises
81 Delaware Street
Staten Island, New York
10304
Phone: 1-212-667-1924

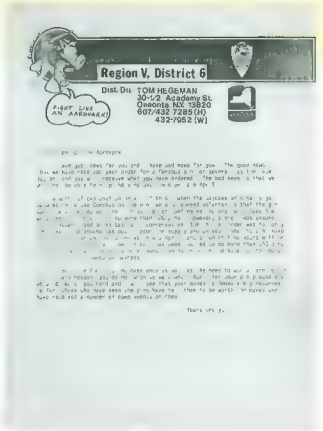
LEAVE LOWER PORTION FOR REPLY — REPLY FROM — DATE

WINDSOR OFFICE SUPPLY INC., DOUCE — INTER-OFFICE MEMO

TO REPLY: RETAIN WHITE ORIGINAL — RETURN PINK

"Form letter from Tom Hegeman about the Jaycees' aardvark mascot pin. It was, indeed, a very nice piece of work...and is now one of the rarest Cerebus collectibles. There are two of them in the Cerebus Archive."

- Dave Sim



Region V, District 6
Dist. Dir. TOM HEGEMAN
30-1/2 Academy St.
Owosso, MI 48820
607/432 7285(H)
432-7952 (W)

Dear Friend of the Aardvark:

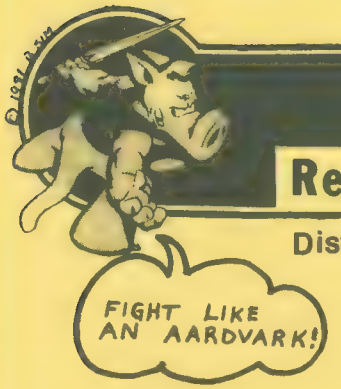
I have good news for you and I have bad news for you. The good news is that we have received your order for a Cerebus pin (or several, as the case may be) and you will receive what you have ordered. The bad news is that we will not be able to ship the pins until mid or late April.

A word of explanation on all of this. When the Jaycees originally got permission to use Cerebus on the pin, we also agreed voluntarily that the pin would be a limited edition. In our letter confirming the deal with Dave Sim we agreed to limit it to no more than 300 pins. However, since I was unsure of the demand, and being basically conservative, the initial order was for only 100 pins. The demand has outstripped the supply and an additional 50 pins have been ordered, which should arrive in mid-April, and at which time yours will be mailed out immediately. The pin has thus been limited to no more than 150 pins of which there will probably be no more than 80 or so in the hands of collectors, the rest will be owned by Jaycees.

I apologize for this inconvenience as well as the need to use a form letter. If, for any reason, you do not wish to wait until April for your pin please drop me a letter or postcard and I will see that your money is immediately returned. So far, those who have seen the pins have felt them to be worth the money and I have received a number of compliments on them.

Yours truly,

"I really wish he would have asked me to letter the "Fight like an aardvark" word balloon on his stationery."
- Dave Sim



Region V, District 6

Dist. Dir.: TOM HEGEMAN
30-1/2 Academy St.
Oneonta, N.Y. 13820
607/432-7285 (H)
432-7952 (W)

September 22, 1981

Dear Dave,

It was nice seeing you at Fantacon in Albany and I appreciate the Cerebus head which you drew for the pin. This letter will confirm our understanding regarding the use of Cerebus on the enameled District Pins. The pin will have a proper copyright notice and I will have your permission to sell it through other than Jaycee channels as a District fundraiser. The District will pay a royalty of 15% of the profits for this privilege.

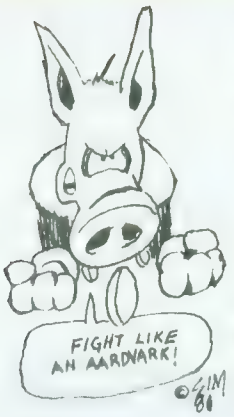
Although we did not discuss any limitation on the number of pins to be made, my intention is to limit to no more than three hundred. You, of course, will receive several examples. I will notify you when the pin has been made (figure two months) and will send you copies of any advertisement which I may run in comic related media.

I would like to thank you on behalf of the Jaycees for your generosity in allowing us to use Cerebus both as a mascot and as a fundraiser.

Sincerely,

"It's also not the best idea to use a convention sketch on the cover of a publication – but I'm willing to bet this newsletter is probably one of the absolute rarest of Cerebus collectibles. Who hangs onto newsletters?"

- Dave Sim



FILTHY LIES!

(Formerly "SLANDEROUS MISINFORMATION")

The Region V, District 6 Newsletter

Typo'd, Pandered & Purveyed by

Number 3
Aug/Sept. 1981

TOM HEGEMAN
30-1/2 Academy St.
Oneonta, N.Y. 13820
607/432-7285 (H)
432-7952 (W)

JAYCEES

WHAT'S HAPPENING WHEN

8/28--Delhi's First Annual Anniversary Get-Together, 6 PM, at the Mostert's.
8/29--Exec Committee Meeting, Canastota
9/7--Oneonta Board Meeting, 7:30 PM, Hegeman's
9/10--Delhi General Meeting, 7:30 PM, American Legion
9/11-12--Mayor's Cup Program Sales by the Oneonta Jaycees
9/18--Walton General Meeting, VFW, 8PM (unless it gets changed)
9/21--Oneonta General Meeting, 7:30 PM, Eagles Club
9/26--Walton Annual Awards Banquet, Imperial Lounge
10/3--Regional Meeting--TBA but mark the date now
10/7--District Meeting, Walton, VFW, 7:30 PM
10/16-18--GALS State Convention--details forthcoming

HELLO, HELLO, HELLO

Well, here we are again. This issue is not as long as I had hoped since I don't have the photos I had hoped to have. I took lots of pics at Batavia and promptly delivered them to my usually-efficient developer. Well, to make a long story short and spare you the curse words and tears, after 2 weeks I have one package of photos back. And you just know it's the one without a lot of the photos I wanted to use. Which is why my report on Batavia will be short and will not have one photo of the U. S. Jaycee President, Gene Honn. Or historic photos of Jack Maines with his clothes on. Or of Region 11 Director George Gaspar paying off challenges by wading (very rapidly) through a trough of animal excrement. (Who says this is a young men's organization?)

NATIONAL NOODLINGS

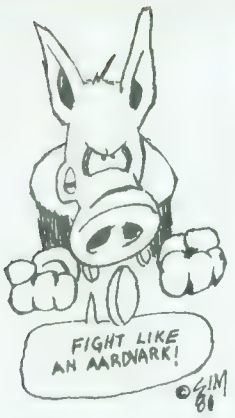
By now you should have all recieved ballots (the chapters, that is, not you individually) on the national referendum for a local option rule on the admission of women. I urge each chapter to vote. This is one of the most controversial issues in years and the national organization is leaving the decision up to you. Every chapter gets a vote. There is no convention to attend. I know many of you have read the excellent articles on the subject in Future since a number of you have mentioned it to me. So let them know what you're thinking.

STATE STUFF

The principal item to report on here is that, photos or not, I had a good time at the Summer Leadership Conference in Batavia. I drove out with Ken Soden of Delhi

"I'm still waiting for Overstreet for put FILTHY LIES No. 3 and 5 as subsets of his CEREBUS listings. Mine aren't in "mint" BTW."

- Dave Sim



FILTHY LIES!

(Formerly "SLANDEROUS MISINFORMATION")

The Region V, District 6 Newsletter

Typo'd, Pandered & Purveyed by

TOM HEGEMAN
30-1/2 Academy St.
Oneonta, N.Y. 13820
607/432-7285 (H)
432-7952 (W)

No. 5
Oct/Nov 1981

JAYCEES

TIMES & PLACES

11/2--Oneonta JC Board Meeting, 7:30 PM, Hegeman's
11/4--District 1 Meeting, Oliver's, 7:30--Remember the case at stake
11/7--Bobby Fuller Day, Walton
11/11--Presidents Council Meeting, 7:30 Hegeman's
11/12--Delhi General Meeting, American Legion, 7:30 PM
11/14--NYS Exec Committee Meeting, Canastota, 10:00 AM
11/15--Arts and Crafts Show for Special Olympics, Holiday Inn, Oneonta
11/19--Walton Meeting, VFW, 7:30 PM (or 8:00 or whenever)
11/16--Oneonta General Meeting, Eagles Club, 7:30 PM--sorry about getting you out of order guys.

##########

AARDVARKUS EXHAUSTUM

I'm so glad you asked. Yes, we have had a busy month. With a Regional, District and State Meeting all in the first 2 weeks you better believe the ol' aardvark has been hopping. The only excuse I can offer for not goofing off is that I'm having too good a time staying busy. I'm happy to see the District members sharing Jaycees with others. There have been a couple of large influxes of members this month and once we get them fired up, watch out world.

STATE STUFF

Cheektowaga was exhausting but ultimately fun. I had the pleasure of riding up with Regional Director Jim "Firechief" Hartman, Empire State Express Editor Ben Cabot and Johnson City President Hammond with whom I shared a room courtesy of the Johnson City Jaycees. Some serious items such as a State dues increase were decided which you will be hearing more about in the upcoming months. Jack Kemp's speech was interesting and inspirational. B ut my memories are more random (it was a hectic weekend) so I'll share them with you in the same disjointed manner I share them with myself:

*National VP Wayne Brushett in designer jeans
*Marathon Exec Committee meetings (only time I've gotten a lousy night's sleep at a convention not from the influence of alchohol)
*Club 747
*Norm Stitham's hat
*Regional Caucus at 7:30 AM
*Hartman can't keep track of the awards
*Playboy Club won't let you in with sneakers
*The Club 747 will

" I'd rank my copy of FILTHY LIES No.6, on the other hand, right up there with the Mile High copy."
- Dave Sim

FILTHY LIES!

(Formerly "SLANDEROUS MISINFORMATION")

The Region V, District 6 Newsletter

Typo'd, Pandered & Purveyed by

TOM HEGEMAN
30-1/2 Academy St.
Oneonta, N.Y. 13820
607/432-7285 (H)
432-7952 (W)

No. 6
Nov/ Dec 1981

CALENDAR

12/7--Oneonta Board Meeting, Hegeman's, 7:30 PM
12/10--Delhi General Meeting, Legion, 7:30 PM
12/12--Oneonta Christmas Tree Sales, Price Chopper
--Exec Committee Meeting, Canastota, 10 AM
12/17--Walton General Meeting, VFW, 7:30 PM
12/21--Oneonta General Meeting, Eagles Club (wherever it may be by then) 7:30 PM

SEASON'S GREETINGS

It's kind of hard to believe Christmas is already upon us but the turkey is still digesting and the cosmic calendar on the wall says December is just a few days away as I type this. Those of you looking to treat yourselves to an early Christmas present might consider a District 6 pin featuring our furry mascot and our feisty motto. I was surprised how nice they came out and I designed the things! They'll be readily available so all will have a chance to purchase specimens to their hearts' delights.

STATE STUFF

If you don't want one of my pins you might consider a sustaining membership in the NYS Jaycees at $25. No rights or privileges go with it (except the undying gratitude of the State Jaycees, of course) but the names of the first 1500 Sustaining Members will be put in a bin and one of them will end up the owner of a Special Edition Corvette on Valentine's Day. Don't want one yourself but know somebody who might? Call me or Doug Thomson (who is the State Chairman of this thing) for the official forms (they're simple) so that person can sign up. Like incentives? The State has some handsome cash bonuses for the member, chapter, District, Region, etc. who sign up the most Sustaining Members.

DISTRICT DOINGS

BIG NEWS!! Doogie Thomson is named President of the Month for October by President Jack. (Doogie insists on sharing the blame with his chapter--and well he should--way to go, guys!)

The Walton Jaycees are to be congratulated for a VERY successful Bobby Fuller Day. It was a pleasure to help work on the project and a pleasure to see

" FILTHY LIES No.2 some fading, otherwise VG to F."
- Dave Sim

FILTHY LIES!

(Formerly "SLANDEROUS MISINFORMATION")

The Region V, District 6 Newsletter

Typo'd, Pandered & Purveyed by

No. 2
July/Aug 1981

TOM HEGEMAN
30-1/2 Academy St.
Oneonta, N.Y. 13820
607/432-7285 (H)
432-7952 (W)

WHAT'S UP DOC?

7/29--District Meeting, Oneonta, Eagles Club, Main St. 7:30 PM. to be preceded by Regional Exec Committee Meeting, 7PM
8/3--Oneonta Board Meeting, Hegeman's, 7:30 PM
8/7-8--State Meeting, Batavia
8/13--Delhi Meeting, 7:30 PM, American Legion
--Walton Meeting, 8PM, VFW
8/17--Oneonta Meeting, 7PM, Lower field Wilber Park. Drawing for District Beer Raffle.
8/29--Exec Committee Meeting, NYS Jaycees, Canastota

HELLO, AGAIN

It's been a busy month for me as I have been on the road visiting chapters and their projects. Many thanks to Doug Thomson of Walton for the great Pig Roast. And the folks in Delhi will be happy to know that the ol' finger is healing nicely. Sorry I couldn't finish cutting that confetti, guys.

I now begin to understand how Joe Emerson felt last year in his travels around the state. This newsletter will be no "Rolling Rugger" but I do appreciate the good times I have and the people I meet travelling in the District.

At the last Exec Meeting in Canastota I sat down with some of my fellow District Directors and we chose our slogan for the year. We will be known as the Dynamic Doers (and I do hope that doesn't look as silly on tee shirts as it does in cold print) and our motto will be "D.D.s Do It! " I am proud of the motto (even if it wasn't my idea) and will try my darndest to live up to it this year.

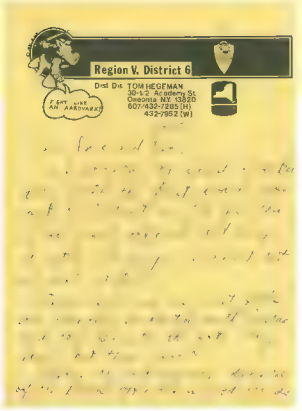
The State Softball Tourney will be hosted by Batavia on August 15. Details from me if interested.

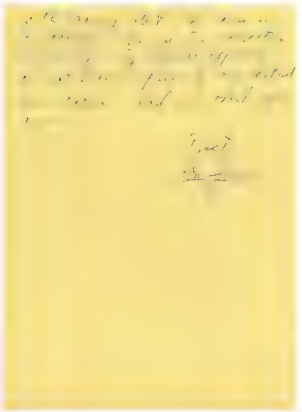
So far the chapters have been very good about getting their Dues Kits and Parade Forms in on time. This makes me happy since it allows me to keep on top of a chapter's activities and help them more effectively. Keep up the good work all of you.

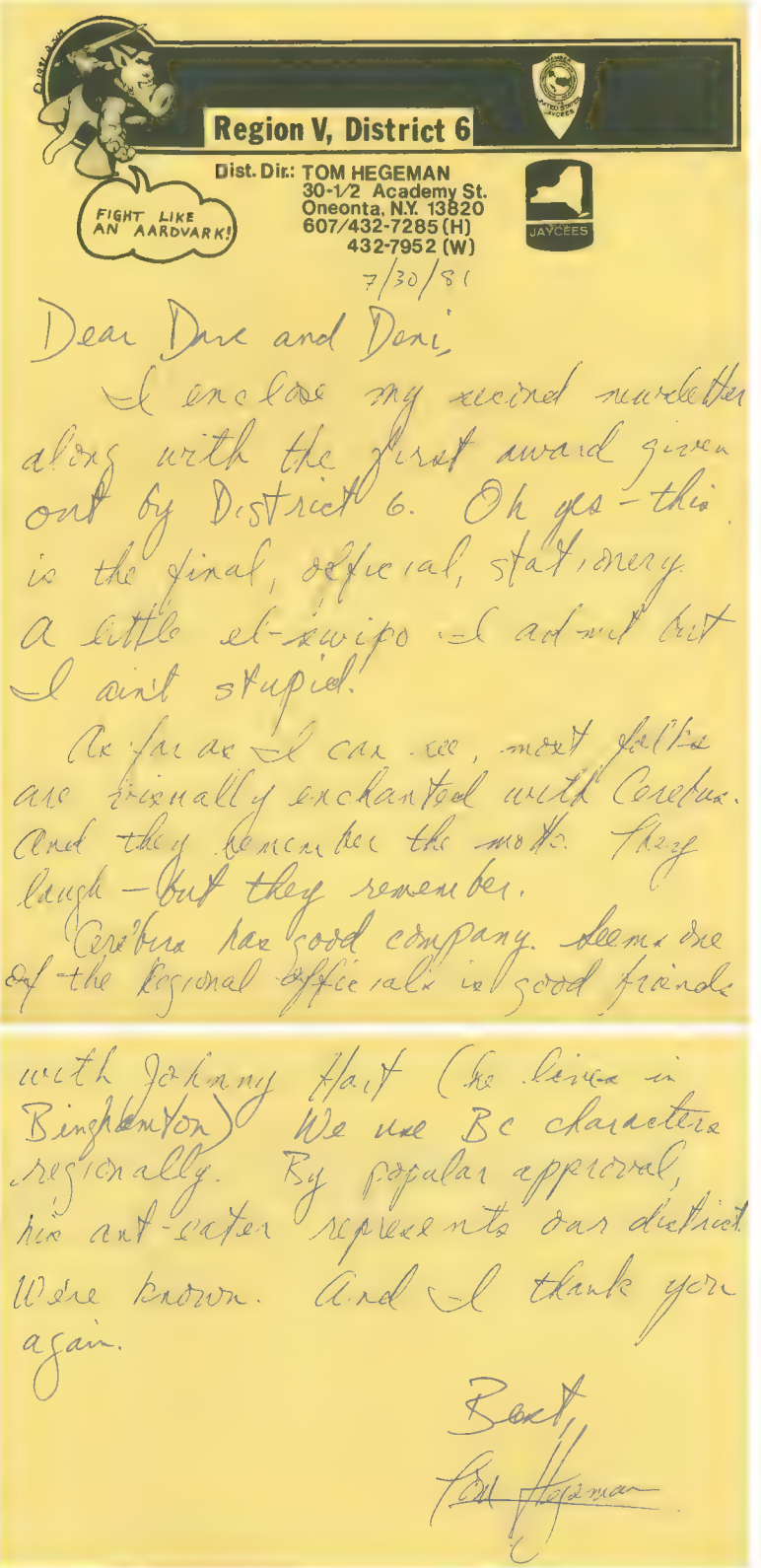
Anybody want to be a State Chairman? Several rather important jobs have yet to be filled. See me for details if interested.

" Letter from Tom Hegeman. Johnny Hart must have thought, "Oh an aardvark INSTEAD of an ant-eater – wow, THAT'S original."

- Dave Sim

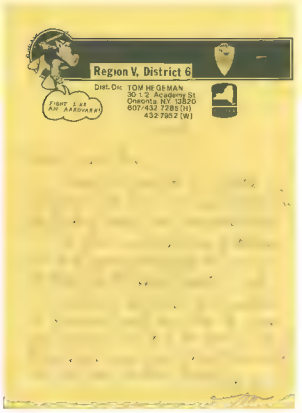





Region V, District 6
FIGHT LIKE AN AARDVARK!
Dist. Dir.: TOM HEGEMAN
30-1/2 Academy St.
Oneonta, N.Y. 13820
607/432-7285 (H)
432-7952 (W)
JAYCEES
7/30/81
Dear Dave and Deni,
I enclose my second newsletter along with the first award given out by District 6. Oh yes – this is the final, official, stationery a little el-swipo – I admit but I ain't stupid.
As far as I can see, most folks are finally enchanted with Cerebus. And they remember the mole. They laugh – but they remember.
Cerebus has good company. Seems one of the regional officials is good friends with Johnny Hart (he lives in Binghamton) We use BC characters regionally. By popular approval, his ant-eater represents our district. Were known. And I thank you again.
Best,
Tom Hegeman

" Letter from Tom Hegeman."

- Dave Sim



Region V, District 6

Dist. Dir.: TOM HEGEMAN
30-1/2 Academy St.
Oneonta, N.Y. 13820
607/432-7285 (H)
432-7952 (W)

FIGHT LIKE AN AARDVARK!

JAYCEES

11/30/81

Dear Dave + Gina,

Here's the latest newsletter along w/ the pins. I enclose 3. One for each of you + one for your files.

The pins came out even better than I had hoped - although the manufacturer left off the date. Sigh.

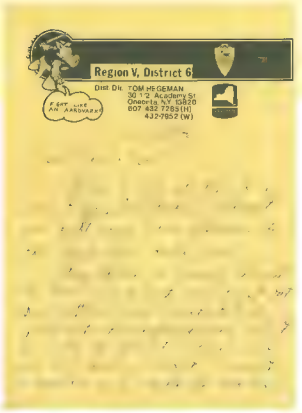
Also enclosed is a proposed ad for TBG to give you particulars as to price, etc. (And if you have any additions, etc. to the ad, let me know quick)

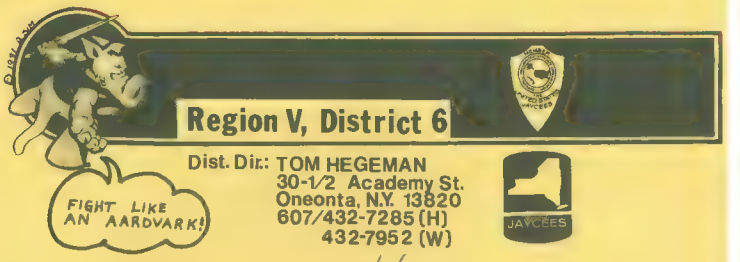
Best,

Tom

"Letter from Tom Hegeman."

- Dave Sim





2/6/82

Dear Dave + Deni

Here's a copy of my K-a zine Flying Dutchman. I thought you might enjoy Cavin reference to the Cerebus pin on the cover.

Many thanks for running the ad in #34! I haven't seen it yet but have gotten orders (I started to figure out what happened when I got a couple of typo-ish coupons) We are now making a profit. Accounting + royalties in a couple of months.

Still don't know if I'll leave it at 100 or go to 200. Orders will determine that.

Again thanks.

Best,
Tom

" We commissioned Richard Bruning, then known as the creator of MARVELOUS FRUITS & VEGGIES – the Marvel super-heroes done as vegetation (i.e. Peardevil) – and later a top executive at DC (Richard, not Peardevil) to do an ad for each issue of CEREBUS for the (then) weekly COMICS BUYER'S GUIDE. He always did a great job. I'm hoping to run all of his ads as an appendix to the collected DIGITAL HIGH SOCIETY."

- Dave Sim

3
THE LONGEST-RUNNING ALTERNATIVE COMIC EVER!
CEREBUS
Every Month A New Adventure With The Reknowned Aardvark
And An Incredible Cast Of Characters
DAVE & DENI SIM will be at Albany's FANTACON Sept. 18 & 19
Written & illustrated by DAVE SIM
Published by AARDVARK-VANAHEIM
CONTACT ONE OF THESE FINE DISTRIBUTORS FOR ORDERING INFORMATION:
Capital City Distribution
2827 Perry St.
Madison, WI 53713
Bud Plant Inc.
P.O.Box 1886
Grass Valley,CA 95945
Styx Comic Service
P.O.Box 3791 Station B
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Can.
R2W 3R6
Glenwood Distribution
124 Vandalia St.
Collinsville,IL 62234
Geppi's Comic World
612½ Edmondson Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21228
Welcome back NYC!
Design & Production by RICHARD BRUNING / ABRAXAS STUDIO

"Letter from Dale Luciano, columnist and staff writer for THE COMICS JOURNAL."

- Dave Sim

Dale Luciano
6932 E. Rosewood
Tucson, AZ 85710
(602) 298-4705

Sept. 23, 1981

Dear

I am in the process of doing a piece (a lengthy piece, as it's turning out) on the "NeWave" or new generation of comic artists, for an upcoming special in THE COMICS JOURNAL. The purpose of the article is to provide an overview of the mail-art and self-publishing phenomenon, as well as profile a number of the better-known (of the lesser-known!) and samples of their work. There will be virtually no evaluative criticism as such, certainly no negative criticism. Clay Geerdes, Brad Foster and Terry Beatty have been extremely cooperative in helping me locate various artists, including you, around the country.

I would very much appreciate your forwarding me information about your background and/or training as a comic artist, your attitude toward comics or comix, your aspirations (if any) for the future, major credits, and anything else you'd care to offer about yourself and your work that you might care to see in print.

I would also appreciate your forwarding samples of your work that you'd like mentioned in the profile. Also, if there is one piece of art work you'd especially like to see reproduced in connection with the piece, I'd appreciate your sending it along. (I mean published work, not the original art.)

Thanks, in advance, for your time and attention. I hope to hear from you!

Cordially,

Dale Luciano
Columnist/Staff Writer, THE COMICS JOURNAL

Dave,

P.S. The point of this is really to provide exposure to those whose work has simply not had much of an audience.

(Dale)

" Matt Denn was one of Diana Schutz's first proteges when they were both working at Comics & Comix, Berkeley and she was editing THE TELEGRAPH WIRE. This was Matt's own zine (done when he was at that age where just doing a fanzine for the local comic store isn't enough). He was actually a pretty funny writer so it's worth squinting at some of this stuff."

- Dave Sim

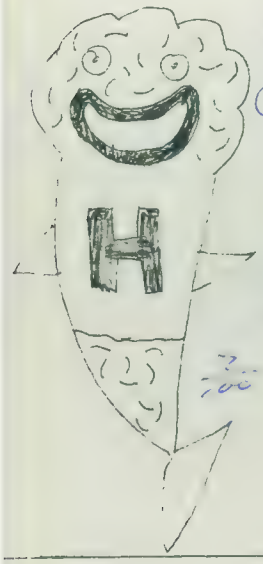
1 of 5

" Matt Denn was one of Diana Schutz's first proteges when they were both working at Comics & Comix, Berkeley and she was editing THE TELEGRAPH WIRE. This was Matt's own zine (done when he was at that age where just doing a fanzine for the local comic store isn't enough). He was actually a pretty funny writer so it's worth squinting at some of this stuff."

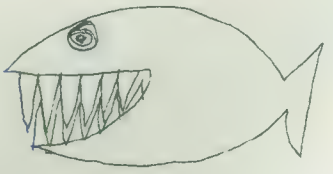
- Dave Sim

Contents

COVER by Steve Leialoha
EDITORIAL where Matt Denn proves that yes, he can indeed use profanities, and quite well thank you. 3
NEWS-Folks, we got stuff that nobody else done got. Read and be amazed. 4
THE 1981 CLAY TROUT AWARDS-Don't ask questions, just read it. 5
THE FINE ART OF ELF HATING-Matt tells about his lifelong hatred of little people with pointy ears (Oh yeah, some mention of ELFQUEST sneaks in there too) 6
NOBODY DOES IT BETTER-Dave Sim, we love you! 7
AN INTERVIEW WITH STEVE ENGLEHART where he says nothing that could possibly offend anyone and is really quite charming. Sorry. 8
CLAREMONT MINUS BYRNE... Chris Claremont and his X-People struggle along without the hand of the man with the golden pen (why, that's almost poetic!) 18
AND BYRNE MINUS CLAREMONT Now isn't that clever? 19
CONVENTION CHATTER-Matt guarantees that he will never be allowed in one of these events again, but what the heck. Who wants to see comic book people? We're too mature for that kind of stuff! 20
DISAPPOINTMENT FROM KING-Than rends Cujo and Matt makes mincemeat out of BIZARRE ADVENTURES #29! Now this is gutsy journalism! 21
CINEMA CORNER-Than provides us with two movie reviews and a humorous little cartoon that he tried to draw while riding a bicycle. 22
CAPSULES-no, not the kind you swallow (what do you want for $1.50?) 23
STEVE ENGLEHART CHECKLIST The first in a projected series of writer checklists. Enough Adams and Wrightson! We want Gerber and McGregor and Miller! 31
HARVEY THE TROUT-sorry folks. We had to do it. See if you can catch our tributes to Marshall Rogers and Roy Thomas, ok pilgrims? Face front! Oops, we were suddenly overcome by Bullpen Bulletins fever. 39
BACK COVER by John Byrne
And now the moment you've all been waiting for: a personal note from the editor/author/artists.



eni- thanks a lot for your support (you can't believe how great it made me feel to have someone ask for 2 copies!), If you like this one, just wait until next time!



Comics Coast to Coast is published quarterly by Matt Denn and Than Davis.
Comics Coast to Coast is ©1982 Matt Denn and Than Davis (and yes, that includes the pig too)
Reproduction without written consent is rather obnoxious and forbidden except for people who are giving us nice reviews.
Subscriptions are $7/year, and available from Comics Coast to Coast; 611 Grizzly Peak Blvd.; Berkeley, California 94708

" Matt Denn was one of Diana Schutz's first proteges when they were both working at Comics & Comix, Berkeley and she was editing THE TELEGRAPH WIRE. This was Matt's own zine (done when he was at that age where just doing a fanzine for the local comic store isn't enough). He was actually a pretty funny writer so it's worth squinting at some of this stuff."

- Dave Sim

Welcome!

It is about 7:00 in the morning. Why is that so unusual? Because I have not gone to sleep yet. I have been up all night rubbing on letters to make the titles of the magazine look even prettier. I have had six cups of coffee since last night, and I hate coffee. It makes my eyes bulge, my hands shake, and my breath smell. So I must be pretty happy with this magazine that Than and I are killing ourselves finishing, right?

Hell no. The CEREBUS review is way too choppy, I lost a fantastic review that Than did of Halloween II, and I can go through the magazine and pick out a mistake on every page. But it was fun, and that makes it worth the late hours, the papers all over my floor, and the constant long distance phone calls. Which brings me to another point.

Than lives in my hometown of Hockessin, Delaware. I live in Berkeley, California. That is why my name might appear a bit more than Than's, but believe me, he has just as much to do with this magazine as I do. We both like comics, and that's why we are doing this in the first place. I'm not Gary Groth, and Than's not Kim Thompson, but we think that maybe our enthusiasm for what we're doing will rub off on you, the reader. Which brings me to yet a third point.

For God's sake, PLEASE let us know what you think of the magazine! I don't care if we sell 200 damn copies, there's just not going to be another issue unless we know that people are reading it and enjoying it (well, maybe if we sold 200 copies...). We're going to have a letters column next issue (God willing) and you can have yours printed by sending it to: Harvey's Mailbag; 611 Grizzly Peak Blvd; Berkeley, CA 94708. You can write about anything, the articles, the weather, or foreign politics, but write! If you want, I'll refund your twenty cents!

As far as the next issue goes, we have a special DAREDEVIL issue planned, with a very tentative interview with Frank Miller! We can't tell you who's doing the cover, but we can tell you that there will be a much longer CEREBUS review, an article by Than on MAN-THING, and a lot more information for your money. $1.50 is too much to pay for 40 pages of elite type, so next issue will be photo-reduced until it is so small that it is almost illegible. We're not making any money on this, but we don't want you to have to spend more than is necessary.

Finally, we would love to have some other points of view in here. If you want to be famous like me and Than, this is the place to get your start. We can't pay you, but you'll at least get a free copy of the magazine and a nice note on fish stationary.

Enjoy.

Since I am the more forward of the two of us (I believe that the terms "audacious," "importunate," and "pain in the neck" were used), I was the one who handled the business side of things, so we decided that I should do the thank-you's.

-JIM SALICRUP came through at the last minute and helped me to get permission from John Byrne to use his art.

-RICHARD PINI and DENI SIM got back to me very quickly about using art from their respective books, ELFQUEST and CEREBUS.

-If you're ever feeling low, just call up IRENE VARTANOFF at DC Comics and listen to the way she answers her phone. I have never heard anyone who sounded so happy to hear from someone who was going to ask for something. Not only did Irene go out of her way to make things easier for me, but she also taught me how to spell ~~penal~~ panel.

-MARSHALL ROGERS sent me a very nice hand-written note giving me permission to use his page from Coyote.

-JIM SHOOTER responded really professionally to an editorial which I sent to him for a rebuttal (the remnants of which can be found in my X-MEN review). He also put me on the Marvel News mailing list.

-CHRIS CLAREMONT and FRANK MILLER gave us several news stories.

-JOHN BYRNE gave us permission to use his two beautiful sketches. How does he do it?

-STEVE LEIALOHA What can I say? Steve made our animals come alive, and we really wish we could give him something more than a lifetime subscription. Nobody draws funny animals like Steve Leialoha. I guess we started at the top.

-Now let's see, is that everybody? Oh yeah! I almost forgot STEVE ENGLEHART! Steve's name really should go down as a co-author, because he is responsible for about half of this magazine. It's become sort of a joke with us, because every time I see him I seem to be saying "Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!". Ok, one last time for the record. All together now...1...2...3...THANK YOU STEVE!!

Matt Dewn

" Matt Denn was one of Diana Schutz's first proteges when they were both working at Comics & Comix, Berkeley and she was editing THE TELEGRAPH WIRE. This was Matt's own zine (done when he was at that age where just doing a fanzine for the local comic store isn't enough). He was actually a pretty funny writer so it's worth squinting at some of this stuff."

- Dave Sim

The Fine Art Of Elf Hating

ELFQUEST

I hate elves.

In the relatively short time that I have been a comics fan, I have seen so many elves on so many quests against so many evil wizards that I usually find myself rooting for the wizards and yelling "Crush those little suckers!". That's what makes what Wendy and Richard Pini have done with ELFQUEST so amazing. Instead of wishing death and famine upon their elves, I find myself actually caring about them. I think that this is because the Pinis care about them too, and it shows.

ELFQUEST is the continuing story of Cutter and his band of wolfrider elves. Most of issues #1-5 were spent introducing them and establishing their personalities, which is one of the reasons why I like them so much. Instead of being satisfied, as most elf writers are, with leaving their elves as two dimensional, pointy eared drawings, the Pinis took the time to really let the reader get to know them. A lot of time was spent just having the elves talking amongst themselves and telling stories, which is something that couldn't be done in a mainstream Marvel or DC comic.

Issues #6-10 are the actual beginning of the quest. As the story begins, Cutter and his dear friend Skywise go off on a search for other elves. When Savah, the mystic, discovers that Cutter must avoid a great danger, she communicates it to his son Suntop, who also has inherent mystic powers. Suntop then leads the wolfriders in a search to find Cutter and Skywise and warn them of the danger. The only complaint that I have about these issues is that the wolfriders were split up, if only temporarily. I like the elves best when they are together, and their separation somewhat weakened the effect of the first five issues. This is not to say, of course, that these stories weren't good. The latest issue, #10, has Cutter being reunited with some of the wolfriders, and is one of the best in the series.

The Confrontation

©1981 WaRP Graphics

Another aspect of ELFQUEST that I enjoy is the elves' interactions with the other characters. Their close--almost symbiotic--relationship with the wolves is sort of a pet lover's dream: to be that close to an animal. Perhaps the most touching scene of the story is when Cutter and Skywise are forced to part with their dying wolves, Nightrunner and Skyjumper.

One problem with the way ELFQUEST is done is that it is more like a serialized novel than it is a comic book. This is ideal for developing plot and characterization, but someone coming in in the middle of the book would be quite lost. Luckily for new readers, the entire series is still in print and available at cover price.

In addition to the nice stories, the art is superb. Both the front and back covers sport eye catching layouts and dazzling colors, and the insides feature some of the most painstakingly detailed drawings that appear in comics. This is where the months Wendy spends on each issue pay off. Although the panels are pieces of art in their own right, what I like best about Wendy's art is the feelings that her characters portray. I can often tell more from an expression on an elf's face or the way he is standing than I can from the actual text. One of the most tense, emotion packed scenes I have ever seen in comics, the confrontation between Cutter and Strongbow in ELFQUEST #6 is accomplished with almost no narration at all. Although I wish the book came out more often, (it comes out three times a year) scenes like that one are worth the wait.

ELFQUEST is one of the top quality comics on the stands, and if it wasn't for my acquired animosity towards elves and my inborn infatuation with wise-cracking animals with snouts, it might be my favorite. Wendy and Richard deserve a lot of credit. They have shown that if you take your time and put out an excellent product, people will stand up and take notice.

Maybe I could get to like pointy ears.

MATT DENN

6

" Matt Denn was one of Diana Schutz's first proteges when they were both working at Comics & Comix, Berkeley and she was editing THE TELEGRAPH WIRE. This was Matt's own zine (done when he was at that age where just doing a fanzine for the local comic store isn't enough). He was actually a pretty funny writer so it's worth squinting at some of this stuff."

- Dave Sim

Nobody Does It Better

CEREBUS #27-#30

Of the 120 or so comic books I have bought over the last four months, the current issues of CEREBUS have been my favorites. Nobody but Dave Sim, the writer and artist, could take a walking talking aardvark, two stupid kidnappers, and an elf and write one of the most creative and funny stories that I've ever read in a comic.

I don't want to go into specifics about the plot, but it involves two Onliu freebooters, Dirty Fleagle McGrew and his baby brother Dirty Drew, who try to kidnap Cerebus the Aardvark, hoping to get the high ransom he will fetch as a foreign dignitary. Cerebus easily escapes, but he then decides to let himself be kidnaped and keep the ransom for himself. As the story progresses he runs into the Regency Hotel's resident elf and Harold M. Harold, a street lamp builder.

Dirty Fleagle and Dirty Drew, like most of Dave's characters, are take-offs of real or fictional people. Fleagle and Drew are dead ringers for Yosemite Sam of Bugs Bunny fame, from their speech right down to their mustaches. These two give Dave a chance to show off one of his greatest strengths; his characters' dialogue. I'll never forget the scene that starts with Dirty Drew saying to Fleagle "...he's a-waitin' outside the winduh—lisnin' to whut we say!"

"He is? Whar?"

"Thar!"

"Whar thar?"

Cerebus, of course, is the star of the book. Dave walks the thin line between making him cute and making him obnoxious perfectly, with the end result being a modern day wascally wabbit (which again brings back the Warner Brothers cartoon similarities that many readers have noticed). Like Bugs, he is both witty and wise, like when he tells the elf why he lets people see him talking to her even though they can't see her: "Lord Julius always said that insanity was the last line of defense for the master bureaucrat."

"I don't get it."

"It's hard to get a refund when the salesman is sniffing your crotch and baying at the moon."

The art in CEREBUS is even better than the writing. You wouldn't believe how many expressions an aardvark can have. Just looking at Cerebus's face after he reads the ransom note still makes me laugh, even after seeing it dozens of times. Also, as a writer/artist, Dave's ability to combine words and pictures has advanced to the level of Frank Miller, with each complementing the other. Best of all, he has become a master at using black and white. Dave has experimented so much in CEREBUS that every issue is a new experience. The ways he is using imaginative layouts and lighting and shadow effects are just stunning. In CEREBUS #29 he flirted for a few pages with adding a Joe Rubinsteinish touch to his inks.

Dave Sim with a touch of Rubinstein

Dave's greatest experiment was in CEREBUS #28, entitled "Mind Games II." The entire issue occurred inside Cerebus's mind while he was unconcious. The art was set off in separate panels and consisted of Cerebus travelling around in the eighth sphere of consciousness, while the words were typed on the outside. Finally, the entire script consisted of Cerebus's conversation with Suentos Po, a magician. Although I didn't really care for the end product, the point is that Dave was willing to experiment, which is more than I can say for most other above and middle ground artists and writers.

If all of my ranting and raving hasn't already convinced you, let me make one final plea: Buy CEREBUS. I guarantee you won't be disappointed.

7 MATT DENN

" Decal roughly 8.5 x 11, flat colour on silver backdrop. I have no idea who did these but I had three or four of them at one time."
- Dave Sim

" Invoice from THE COMICS JOURNAL (note from Kim Thompson) for a full-page CEREBUS ad, presumably one of Richard Bruning's and the International Money Order receipt – back in the day when it cost $109 Canadian to buy $90 U.S."

- Dave Sim

THE COMICS JOURNAL
FANTAGRAPHICS, INC.
196 W. Haviland Lane
STAMFORD, CT 06903

Invoice

Date September 23 1981

SHIP TO: (Same as at left unless indicated)

TO: Aardvark-Vanaheim
PO Box 1674, Station 'C'
Kitchener, Ontario CANADA N2G 4R2

Your Order No.	Date Shipped	Shipped Via	F.O.B.	Terms	Salesperson
				net 15 days	kt

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE		TOTAL AMOUNT	
	full-page advertisements in THE COMIS JOURNAL #67	90	00	90	00
	What are the advertising rates in CEREBUS? --KT				

ORIGINAL

Thank You!

CANADIAN IMPERIAL BANK OF COMMERCE

INTERNATIONAL MONEY ORDER 3394377

Aardvark - Vanaheim (NAME OF REMITTER)

152 King and Queen KITCHENER, ONT. (TRANSIT NO.) Oct 5/81 (BRANCH) (DATE)

IN FAVOUR OF The Comics Journal Fantagraphics, Inc. ******* U.S. 90.00 (NOT OVER $1000)

FOR UNITED STATES DOLLARS

NOT NEGOTIABLE

CHARGE TO CUSTOMER

TO BANKERS TRUST COMPANY
16 WALL STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y.

COUNTER RATE 1.2095

EQUIV. CAN. $ 108.85

HANDLING CHARGES 1.—

TOTAL COST 109.85

CUSTOMER'S COPY

AUTHORIZED FOR DEBIT TO ..... A/C No. .....

IN THE NAME OF ..... SIGNATURE .....

858-80

" Invoice & receipt for ads in THE COMICS JOURNAL No. 67 and 68 and the ELFQUEST GATHERUM – the latter being especially good exposure. ELFQUEST was pretty much the hottest thing going in 1981. Handwritten annotations by Deni."

- Dave Sim

THE COMICS JOURNAL
FANTAGRAPHICS, INC.
196 W. Haviland Lane
STAMFORD, CT 06903

Invoice

Date October 11, 1981

SHIP TO: (Same as at left unless indicated)

TO: Aardvark-Vanaheim
Box 1674 Station C
Kitchener, Ontario N2G 4R2 CANADA

Your Order No.	Date Shipped	Shipped Via	F.O.B.	Terms	Salesperson
				payable immediately	kt

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL AMOUNT
	full-page advertisement in TCJ #67 (paid cheque #250)		90 00
	full-page advertisement in TCJ #68		90 00
	full-page advertisement in ELFQUEST GATHERUM		200 00
			380 00
			- 90
	(This bill supersedes previous bill for $90.00; deduct $90.00 if you've paid that one and our letters crossed.)		$290 00

paid Oct 27/81

ORIGINAL

Thank You!

CANADIAN IMPERIAL BANK OF COMMERCE

INTERNATIONAL MONEY ORDER

3394454

Aardvark-Vanaheim (NAME OF REMITTER) — TRANSIT NO. — BRANCH — Oct. 27, 1981 (DATE)

IN FAVOUR OF ******Fantagraphics, Inc.********** U.S. $ *290.00* (NOT OVER $1000)

FOR UNITED STATES DOLLARS

TO BANKERS TRUST COMPANY
16 WALL STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y.

NOT NEGOTIABLE

CHARGE TO CUSTOMER

COUNTER RATE 1.2135

EQUIV. CAN. $ 351 91

HANDLING CHARGES 1 —

TOTAL COST 352 91

CUSTOMER'S COPY

AUTHORIZED FOR DEBIT TO ..... A/C No. .....

IN THE NAME OF ...

SIGNATURE

"Another letter from Dale Luciano. I'm assuming this is all ancient history for all of us and he won't mind my including a 30-year-old letter from him in the Cerebus Archive."

- Dave Sim

Dale Luciano
6932 E. Rosewood
Tucson, AZ 85710
(602) 298-4705

Oct. 8, 1981

Dave Sim
Aardvark-Vanaheim Press
221 Queen St South #1401
Kitchener, Ontario
Canada N2G 1W5

Dear Dave,

I tried to write a couple of months ago, but due to the Canadian postal strike, my letters kept being returned. Just wanted to say how pleasant it was to meet you in San Diego, and how pleased I was to participate in the interview session with you. It's always lovely to meet someone whose work you admire and discover that the person turns out to be as intelligent and articulate as you'd hoped he or she might be.

Also wanted to thank you for forwarding the copies of Cerebus, c/o The Comics Journal. These are much appreciated. I've been trying to review a wider range of material lately--no Marvel or DC unless I'm asked to, or unless something really impressive comes along--and it's immensely helpful to receive review copies of current material. I see that Gene Phillips has something on Cerebus in #67: I note that he omits any mention of the wonderful verbal wit contained in Cerebus. Apart from its other virtues, Cerebus is certainly the most intelligently written book I've seen, coming out on any regular basis.

I keep meaning to do a piece on Cerebus, and will, but I work in the theatre, and so the projects and review work sometimes pile up until I have sufficient time to devote myself to writing with full vigor and attention.

Have you seen the new Journal format? I'm very pleased. Hope you are. Seems to me Groth has gotten a line-up of writers that would be difficult, if not impossible, to duplicate. The book gets rather heavy-handed at times, but the mag has really turned into something of a phenomenon. Hope you continue to find it enlightening, or at least stimulating.

Am currently working on a long profile of "NeWave" artists for the Journal. ("NeWave" in the sense of self-published artists, mini-comics, etc., not music.) If you know of anyone that I might or should include, please let me know or have them get in touch with me. I've corresponded with a number of very interesting talents (Erling, Valentino, Foster, Holman, Dissmeyer, Krauss, Whitney, Tamsula, Turville, and Siergey, among others--also, the Canadian "Roldo," although I'm not totally charmed by his work. I'll enclose a copy of the letter I've been sending out to some of the artists I've mentioned. Your stature is such that

(more/over)

"Another letter from Dale Luciano. I'm assuming this is all ancient history for all of us and he won't mind my including a 30-year-old letter from him in the Cerebus Archive."

- Dave Sim

I don't think you may be regarded as "NeWave," although your name has come to represent a certain model of independence and integrity in terms of self-publishing. If you are familiar with what the "NeWave" idea is (as promoted by Clay Geerdes, Artie Romero and Brad Foster), I'd appreciate any comment on the "NeWave" phenomenon you'd care to make for attribution.

Are you familiar with Harold Pinter or David Mamet's plays? Just wondering, based on your feel for language. It seemed to arise during the interview that you had some sort of theatrical background, and I forgot to follow up on that. Most of my work is in theatre and film, and we should have chatted about that. I have a small part in the upcoming film, The Pursuit of D. B. Cooper (though I have the feeling I may have ended up on the cutting room floor). Just auditioned for Sidney Potier, who's here filming the sequel to Stir Crazy. (What a gracious, charming man.) I just finished writing and directing a parody/melodrama entitled Turmoil In Tucson, or Just Deserts In The Desert. It had a short, successful run at Old Tucson, a movie location/amusement park here.

Well, best good wishes with Cerebus. Hope to run into you again in the future.

Cordially,

Dale

Dale Luciano

P.S. This letter's not intended for publication. That may go without saying, but a couple of informal, personal letters I've written lately have--much to my shock!--ended up in print.

P.S.S. I do have a fan's request. Could you possibly set aside a Cerebus page for me? I meant to ask in San Diego, but gosh, well, gee, I am a bit shy about appearing impertinent or imposing on people. Being in the position of "critic" frequently makes it awkward for me to make such a request. Please let me know what arrangements would be appropriate (remuneration, postage, etc.), or whether you'd just prefer I go through your representative in New Jersey. Actually, I would be pleased if you could pick something out. But, well...whatever.

"Letter from Barry Windsor-Smith. His cover for SWORDS OF CEREBUS volume 5 is probably the most iconic piece of Cerebus art apart from the cover to CEREBUS No.1."

- Dave Sim

GbP
THE GORBLIMEY PRESS
BOX 92, MADISON SQUARE STA
NEW YORK, NY 10010 USA
TELEPHONE (212) 675-4728
BARRY WINDSOR-SMITH
LINDA LESSMANN BUSINESS MGR.

Dave Sim
AARDVARK-VANAHEIM, Inc.
Box 1674 Station 'C'
Kitchener, Ontario

October 14, 1981

Dear Dave,

Thanks for your note of last week. I was surprised at the payment offer; I had no idea we were talking in these terms. For about a year or so I've been thinking of asking you if you'd like a cover by my humble self and had only vaguely considered any prospect of payment; even when we talked at the Albany convention I was not imagining any substantial reimbursement -- Perhaps you did mention it, but I don't think I picked up on it.

Something else I suppose I was not too quick on was the actual stories reprinted in Volume Four of Swords of Cerebus. This I know you did quote to me but I've frankly forgotten. I recall numbers in the 'teens and Palnu...please remind me.

I require some advice, also. Do you want a storyline cover only? Or, if I choose, may I produce a more general piece of Cerebus imagery? It happens with me sometimes that because of my known independence in editorial and artistic matters I'm left with an entirely free hand by editors which, were it but understood, sometimes makes things rather difficult for me due to my Quixotic desire to please the person I'm doing the work for. Thusly, I ask for some guideline in the fashion of your thoughts and desires for this work.

NEW ROMANTIC ART

"Letter from Barry Windsor-Smith. His cover for SWORDS OF CEREBUS volume 5 is probably the most iconic piece of Cerebus art apart from the cover to CEREBUS No.1."

- Dave Sim

2 of 2

-2-

Also, more basically, could you suggest the prefered dimensions (scale, that is) for the cover and advise me on the matter of masthead (is it mechanically added by the printer? Do you apply it to the art? What?) and blurbs. I've not seen any Swords books and thus am unfamiliar with it's presentation. I am presuming all along that we are talking of full-colour art (not mechanical) - is this so?

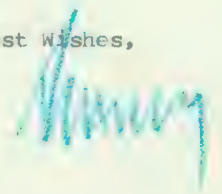
You see, I'm a bit in the dark, please shine a light.

It was good to see you again after all these years - and I'm sorry we had so little time to talk. Every chance I had to visit your table you seemed engrossed in sketching. I had planned to invite you and Deni down here to my house in Woodstock after the convention (less than an hour's drive) but you disappeared almost magically at five-o-clock.

I had these prints for you at that time but obviously couldn't give them to you; I now risk them in the mails.

Let me hear from you soon -

Best Wishes,



GbP, P.O. Box 704, Woodstock, NY 12498

PS, INC ONE ADDITIONAL SET OF TUBES, TO SEND THE PRINTS; AS I WANT YOU TO GET ONE, LETTER SOON I'LL HAVE TO SEND THE ABOVE MENTIONED PRINTS LATER

CEREBUS ARCHIVE NOTEBOOKS

"Albatross Too"

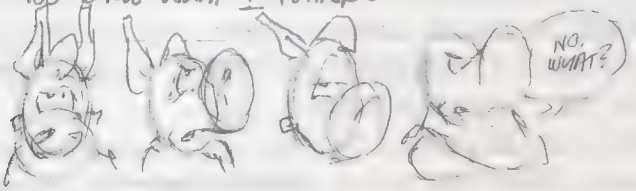
I began using notebooks to plot CEREBUS beginning with issue 20. I called the notebook my "albatross" since it was always with me, a constant reminder of work I had to do. Plotting for HIGH SOCIETY began on page 135 of the 200-page "Albatross One" (although much plotting of the various political factions takes place on the earlier pages and on – now long gone – scraps of paper).

10 - magic CEREBUS has faced SPIDERS TWICE
do you know who B'COR was?
CLEEN-X
CLEAN X

#29 - DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT A BARN WHERE YOU'VE SACRIFICED A CORN KING SMELLS LIKE AFTER THREE HOURS?
- ROCK THAT TURNS ~~MAGENTA BLUE~~
REDDISH PURPLE
BLUISH PURPLE
GOY WHO LIVES UNDER ~~PEERS~~ UPPER CLASS
IEST - Bobby Kennedy?
Mary Astor character - UPPER CLASS WOMAN
BEING BLACKMAILED

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! 40 GUYS NAMED MORTY WITH WARTS RIGHT HY'AR BUY THE BIG ONE IN A MASSIVE WAVE OF UNDERAGE HOMICIDES!
PONTIFF BLAMES CHRISTS
@ REGENCY EVE - ANARCHIST.

YOU KNOW WHAT I THINK?



I AM THE HOUSEKEEPER (SNEAKING IN TO SEE CEREBUS)
MARY ASTOR style character
ORTHO TARUM: WELL, THERE ARE SO MANY NEW MEMBERS OF THE UPPER CLASSES, THAT SOMEONE HAS TO... uh... ORIENT THEM.

HSANB 1/29 - Quick notes on future plot ideas:

"Do you have any idea what a barn where you've sacrificed a Corn King smells like after three hours?" [not used].

"Goy who lives under Upper Class Iest - Bobby Kennedy?" [not used].

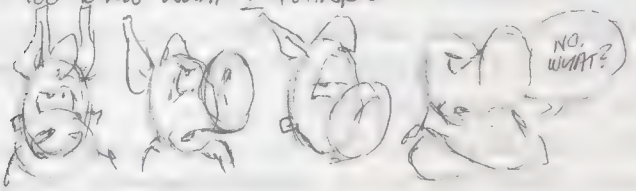
continued...

10 - magic CEREBUS has faced SPIDERS TWICE
do you know who B'COR was?
CLEAN X
CLEAN X

#29 - DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT A BARN WHERE YOU'VE SACRIFICED A CORN KING SMELLS LIKE AFTER THREE WEEKS?
- ROCK THAT TURNS ~~MAGENTA BLUE~~
REDDISH PURPLE
BLUISH PURPLE
GUY WHO LIVES UNDER ~~PERRO~~. UPPER CLASS
IEST - Bobby Kennedy?
Mary Astor character - UPPER CLASS WOMAN BEING BLACKMAILED

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! 40 GUYS NAMED MORTY WITH WARTS RIGHT HY'AR BUY THE BIG ONE IN A MASSIVE WAVE OF UNRELATE HOMICIDES!
PONTIFF BLAMES CIRINISTS
@ REGENCY EVE - ANARCHIST.

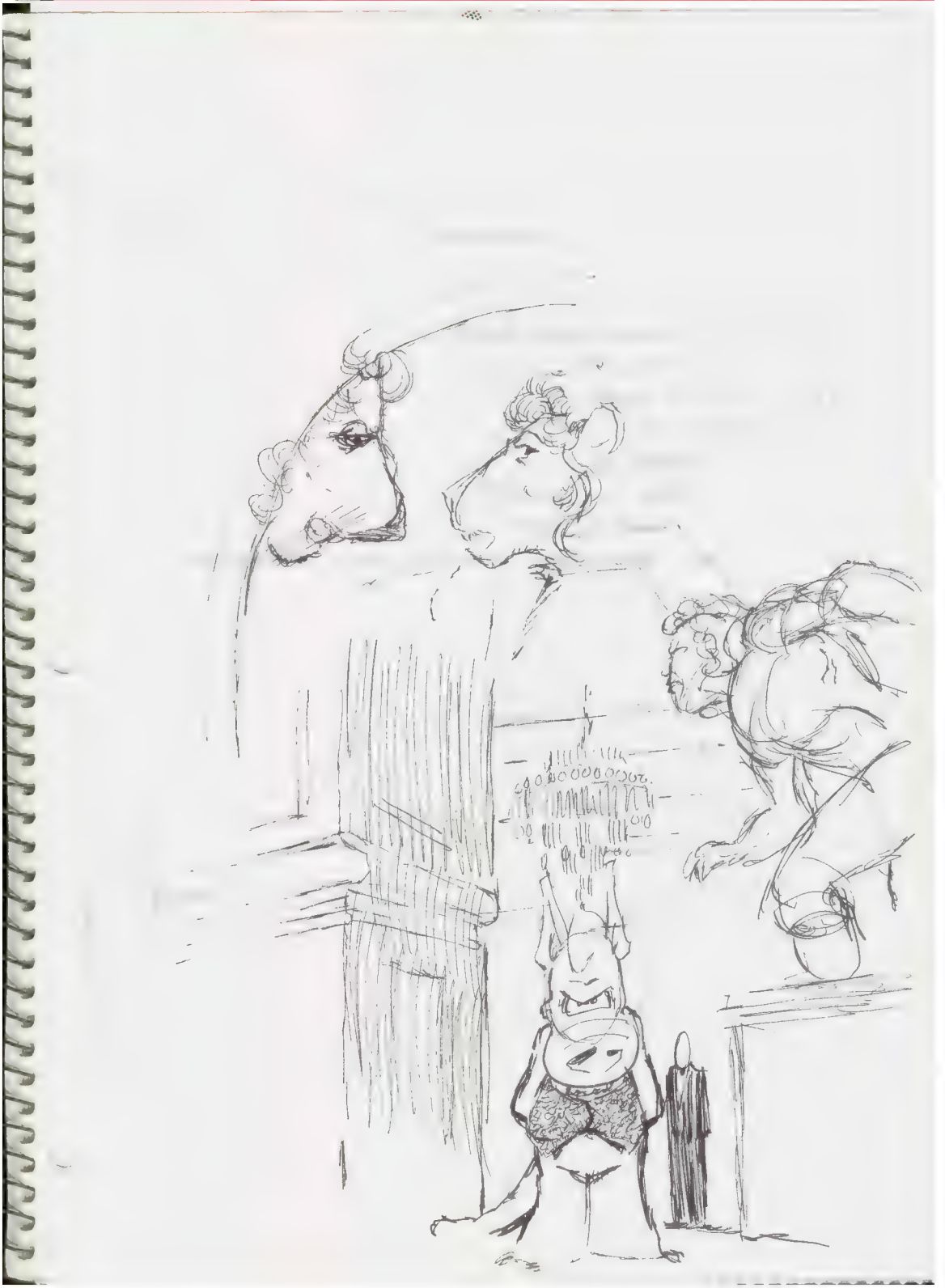
YOU KNOW WHAT I THINK?



I AM THE HOUSEKEEPER (SNEAKING IN TO SEE CEREBUS)
MARY ASTOR style character
ORTHO TAPLIN: WELL, THERE ARE SO MANY NEW MEMBERS OF THE UPPER CLASSES, THAT SOMEONE HAS TO... wh... ORIENT THEM.

"Mary Astor character - Upper Class Woman being blackmailed" [modified].

"HEAR YE! HEAR YE! FORTY GUYS NAMED MORTY WITH WARTS BUY THE BIG ONE IN MASSIVE WAVE OF UNRELATE[D] HOMICIDES! PONTIFF BLAMES CIRINISTS" [modified into Headline Broadsheets in Election storyline].



HSANB 2/29 - Trying to get a "feel" for the Regency again after spending an entire month in the Eighth Sphere.

#29 GUY SHOWS UP TO READ CEREBUS A PROCLAIMATION

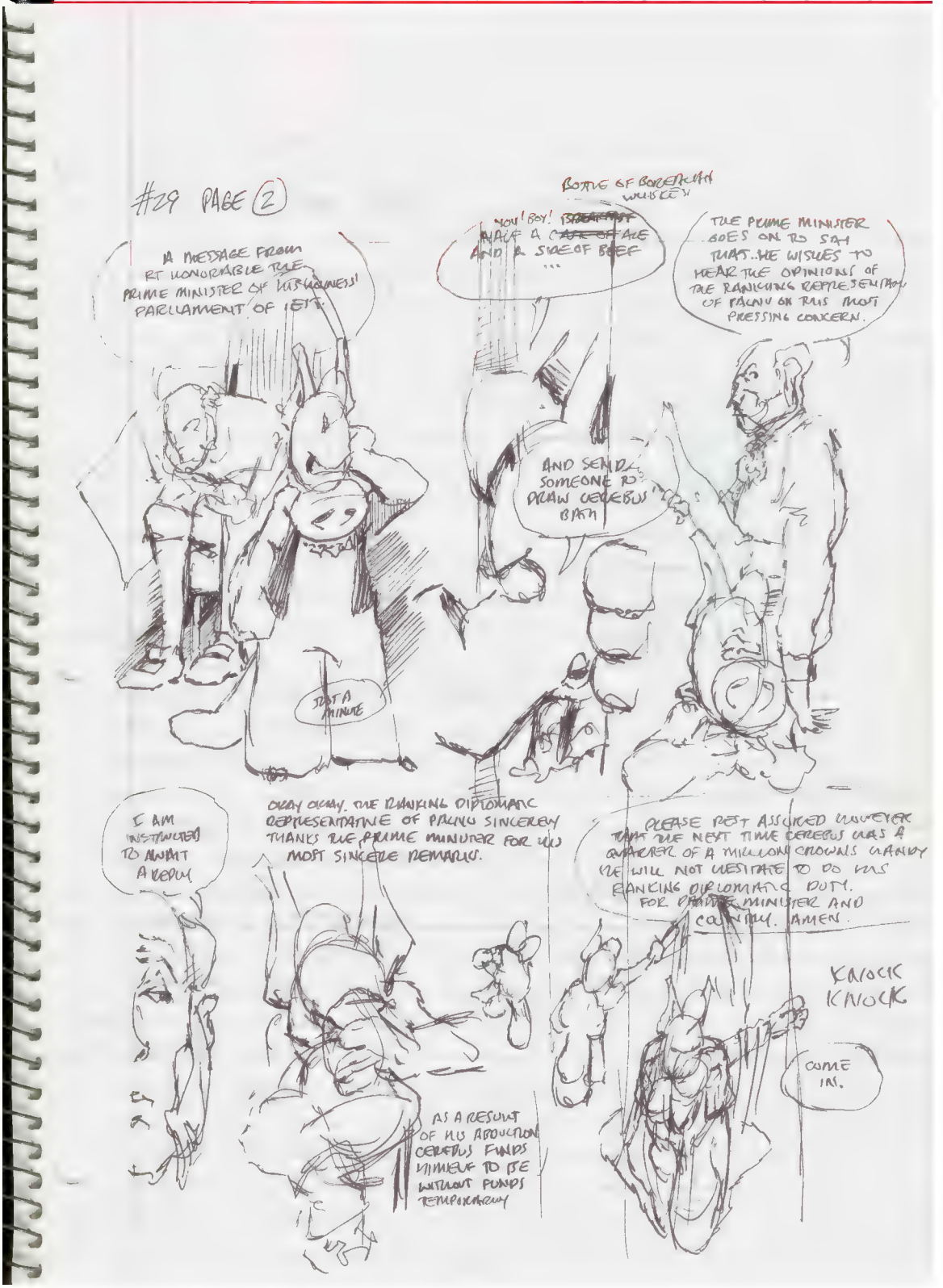
PAGE (2) DESK CLERK — WELL ENOUGH TO RECEIVE ~~[illegible]~~S A MESSAGE FROM RIGGY
GET UP ~~[illegible]~~ — HONORABLE TUE PRIME MINISTER
IN BED

PAGE (3) FORMAL SOUNDING THREAT LETTER
PAGE (4) FORMAL SOUNDING THREAT ANSWER
PAGE (5) LEAVES "KNOW WHAT I THINK"
PAGE (6) FOLLOWING SOUND
(7) REGENCY ELF

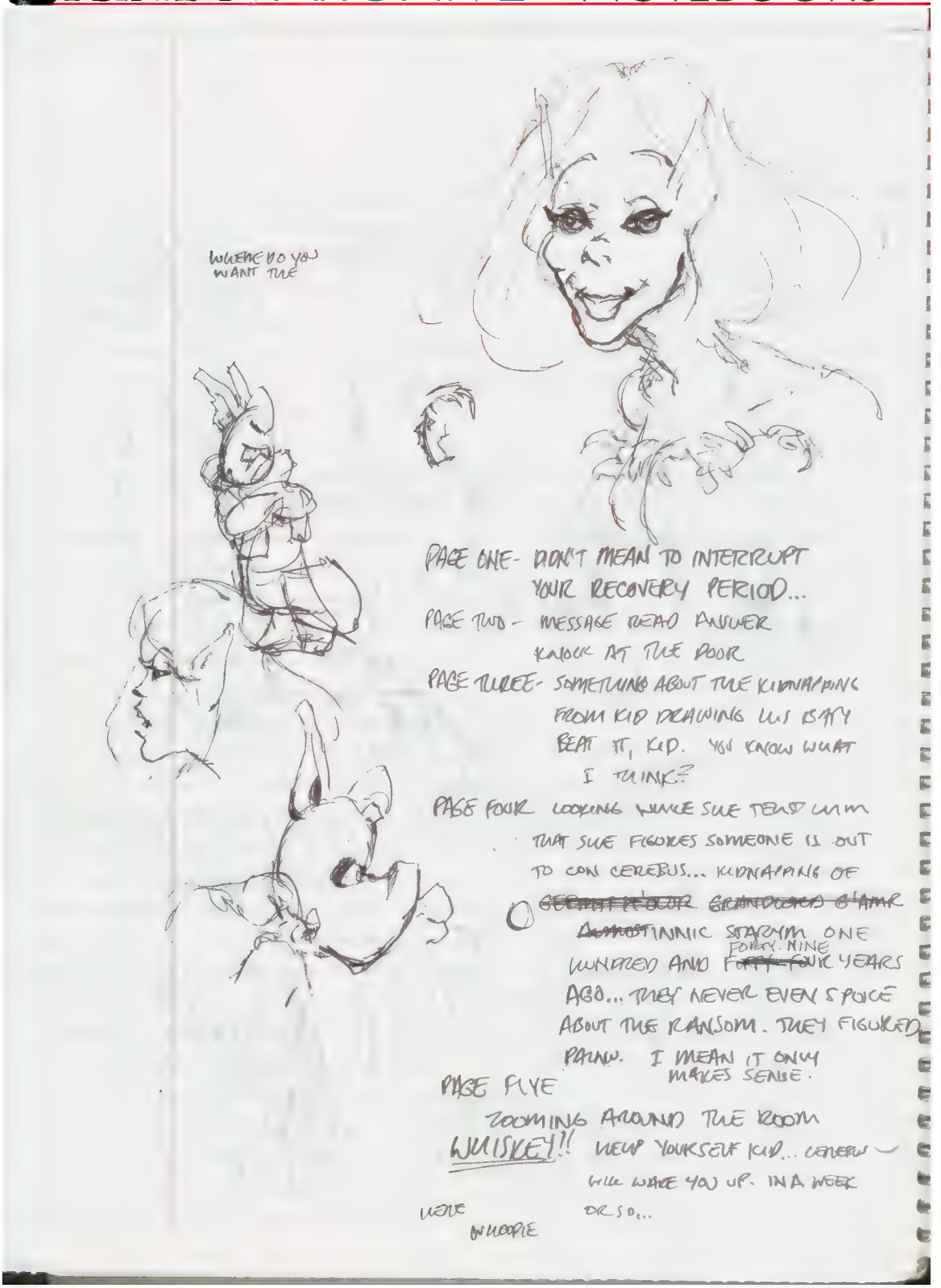
OPINIONS AND FACTS — WHISKEY?
GWP GWP GWP.

DESK CLERK COMES IN CEREBUS HAVING EMPTY BOTTLE.

HSANB 3/29 - Back to doing regular comics so I had 7 pages mapped in as terse single phrases almost right off the bat and then a sketch of Cerebus waking up in bed.

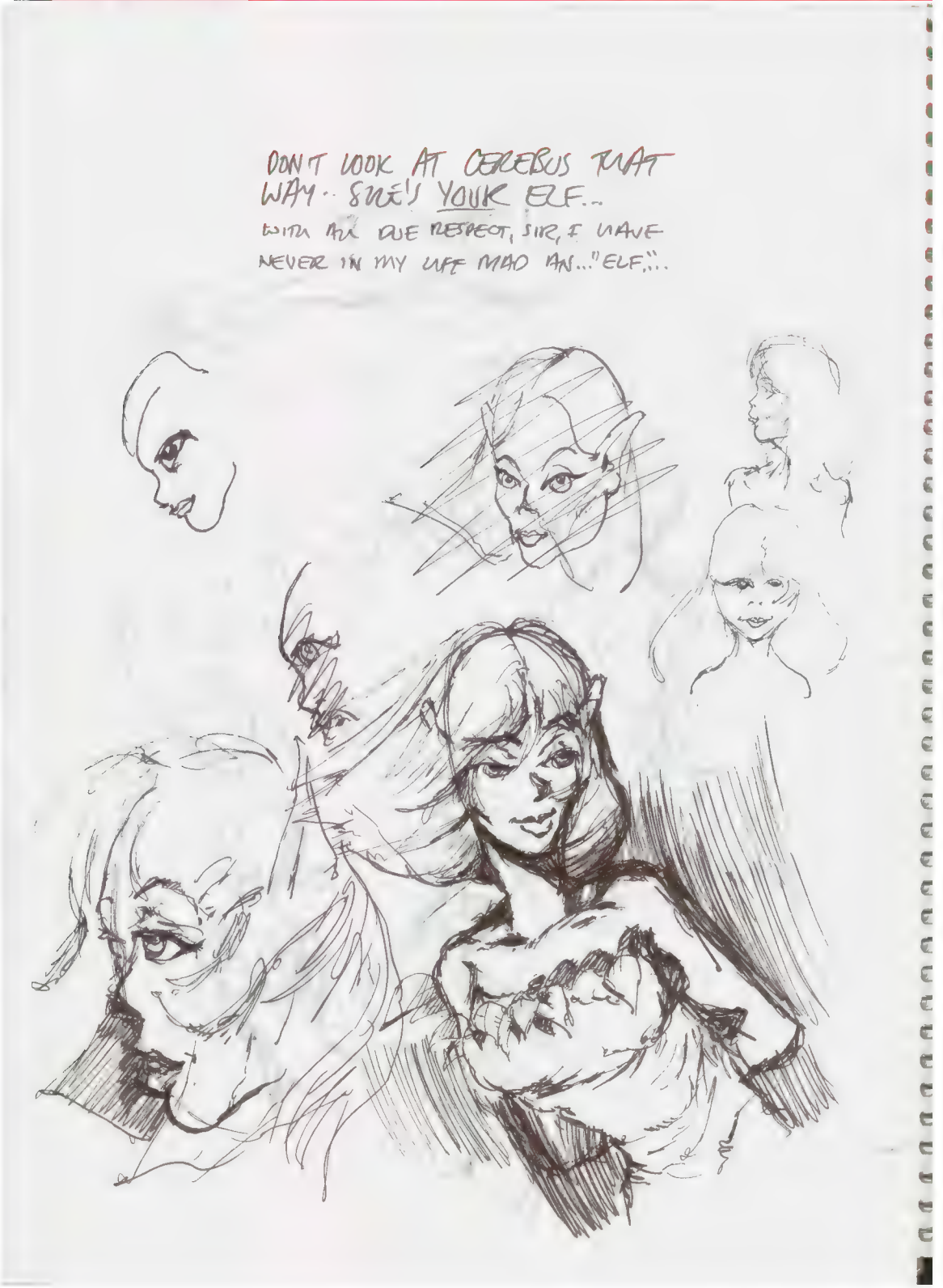

#29 PAGE (2)
A MESSAGE FROM RT HONORABLE TYLE PRIME MINISTER OF HIS MAJESTY'S PARLIAMENT OF 1ET.
JUST A MINUTE
NOTE OF BORROWED WHISKEY
YOU! BOY! BREAKFAST HALF A CAKE OF ALE AND A SIDE OF BEEF
AND SEND SOMEONE TO DRAW CEREBUS' BATH
THE PRIME MINISTER GOES ON TO SAY THAT..HE WISHES TO HEAR THE OPINIONS OF THE RANKING REPRESENTATIVE OF FACING ON THIS MOST PRESSING CONCERN.
I AM INSTRUCTED TO AWAIT A REPLY
OKAY OKAY. THE RANKING DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE OF FACING SINCERELY THANKS THE PRIME MINISTER FOR HIS MOST SINCERE REMARKS.
AS A RESULT OF HIS ABDUCTION CEREBUS FINDS HIMSELF TO BE WITHOUT FUNDS TEMPORARILY
PLEASE REST ASSURED HOWEVER THAT THE NEXT TIME CEREBUS HAS A QUARTER OF A MILLION CROWNS HANDY HE WILL NOT HESITATE TO DO HIS RANKING DIPLOMATIC DUTY. FOR PRIME MINISTER AND COUNTRY. AMEN.
KNOCK KNOCK
COME IN.

HSANB 4/29 - Rare occasion of sketching an entire page with dialogue.


WHERE DO YOU WANT TUE
PAGE ONE- DIDN'T MEAN TO INTERRUPT YOUR RECOVERY PERIOD...
PAGE TWO - MESSAGE READ ANSWER KNOCK AT TUE DOOR
PAGE TUREE- SOMETUING ABOUT TUE KIDNAPPING FROM KID DRAWING UIS DADDY BEAT IT, KID. YOU KNOW WUAT I TUINK?
PAGE FOUR LOOKING WUICE SUE TELLS UIM TUAT SUE FIGURES SOMEONE IS OUT TO CON CEREBUS... KIDNAPPING OF
DOMESTINNIC STARTING ONE FORTY-NINE HUNDRED AND FORTY-FOUR YEARS AGO... TUEY NEVER EVEN SPOKE ABOUT TUE RANSOM. TUEY FIGURED PAYING. I MEAN IT ONLY MAKES SENSE.
PAGE FIVE
ZOOMING AROUND TUE ROOM
WUISKEY!! HELP YOURSELF KID... CEREBUS WILL WAKE YOU UP. IN A WEEK OR SO...
UEUE
WHOOPIE

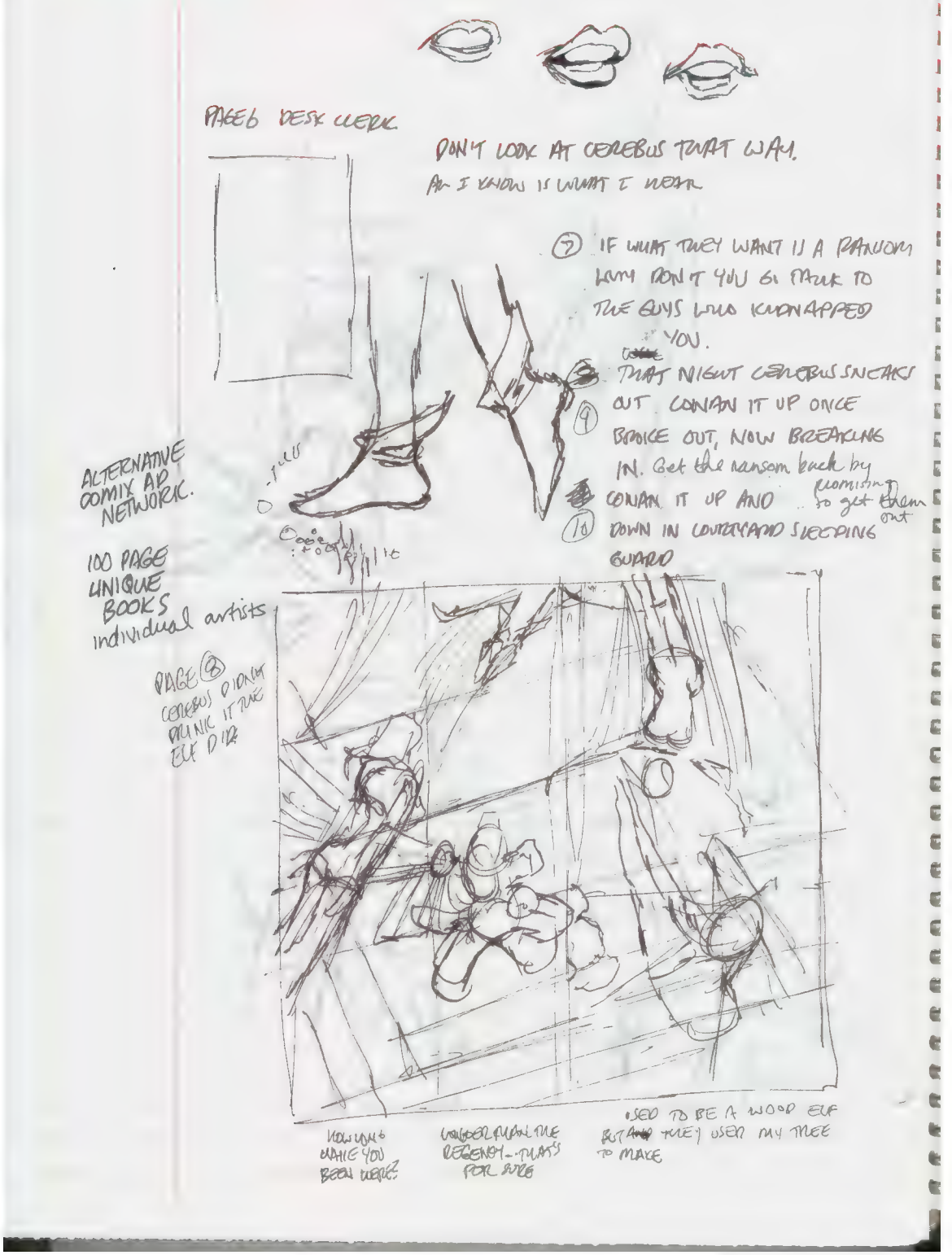
HSANB 5/29 - I basically brought in the Regency Elf for the same reason that Jerry Robinson created Robin – so Batman would have someone to talk to (and in this case so Cerebus would have someone to talk to whom he trusted – what's not to trust about an Elf?).

HSANB 6/29 - Very free form Elf sketches. I wanted her to be like Tinkerbell but with some serious "wheels."



HSANB 7/29 - Trying to make her cute and make her look like an Elf which seemed to be mutually exclusive in my case. How could anything with pointed ears look cute?

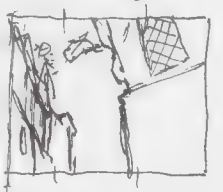
HSANB 8/29 - I couldn't get away from it: the only time she looked cute was when her ears were covered with blonde hair.


PAGE 6 DESK CLERK
DON'T LOOK AT CEREBUS THAT WAY.
ALL I KNOW IS WHAT I HEAR
7 IF WHAT THEY WANT IS A RANSOM WHY DON'T YOU GO BACK TO THE GUYS WHO KIDNAPPED YOU.
THAT NIGHT CEREBUS SNEAKS OUT CONAN IT UP ONCE BRUCE OUT, NOW BREAKING IN. Get the ransom back by promising to get them out
9
CONAN IT UP AND
10 DOWN IN COURTYARD SLEEPING GUARD
ALTERNATIVE COMIX AD NETWORK.
100 PAGE UNIQUE BOOKS individual artists
PAGE 8
CEREBUS PICNIC IN THE ELF PIT
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN HERE?
I USED TO BE A WOOD ELF BUT THEY USED MY TREE TO MAKE

HSANB 9/29 - Just trying to get a "feel" for working with a flying character.

(11)
WAKE OF RANKING DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE OF PALNU. THE TWO KIDNAPPING PRISONERS.

Down in the cells BACKGROUND CONVERSATION BETWEEN
(12) Guard and subordinate.... CEREBUS WONDERS HIS QUESTIONS. There weren't nothing in the boat but a statchooette of a damn duck
POO BLANKET...?
Whaddaya think we are shagpiel'n something?
Course there was a red blanket they sold the duck to a fence for nine copper bits.
CEREBUS eating hard boiled eggs shells and all.
Cerebus leaving while he pulling rank trick is still
(13) working. Back at the regency one of the bellhops is just leaving after delivering CEREBUS a late snack. After he leaves ELF appears and asks how it went. They said all that was in the boat was a statuette figurine of a duck.
Could they be lying the boat might be stashed somewhere. No?
Dirty Fleagle and Dirty Drew have trouble getting through Unlocked doors.
Maybe it was gold or set with diamonds or something.
Even people who can't make it through unlocked doors can tell the difference between a treasure and a paperweight. If they threw it away it was junk alright.
So where does that leave you.
KNOCK KNOCK representative of RIGHT HON. THE P. MINISTER
Stick around CEREBUS is about to find out where that leaves him.



HSANB 10/29 - I like the line "Dirty Fleagle and Dirty Drew have trouble getting through UNlocked doors." I should have used it.

PRIME MINISTER sends a slightly more terse message.
CEREBUS responds ~~that it's their~~ with the perfect answer
conversation with the desk clerk:
I am as outdoors a Taranta as ... well, as you yourself are, meaning nothing offensive, sir
as soon as CEREBUS shows up, they start to blow the whistle HOW WUD Y'U FEEZ IF'N WE WUZ TUR blow the.
that depends
depends on ~~what~~. what
depends on whether you want CEREBUS to get you out of here or not.

MARCH ASTOR hired by the desk clerk to get the bird back. desk clerk knows that she's a CIRINIST and they're trying to get ~~the~~ CEREBUS to tell her which side he lines up with.

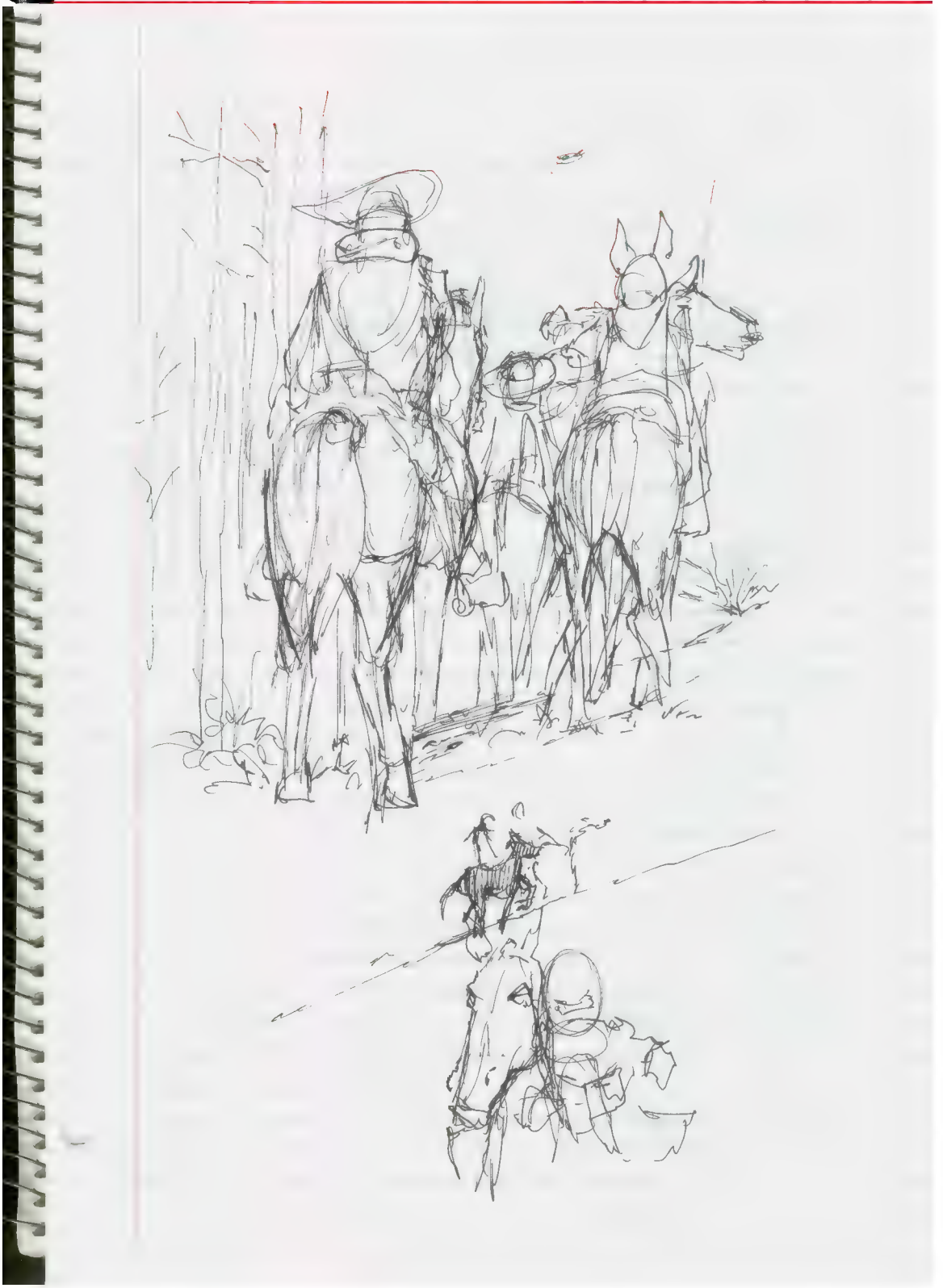
(14) Maybe it's time CEREBUS sent a few notes of his own. pulls out card. guy shows up dictates letter.
~~(a) CAPTAIN BECKER and SPECT.~~
(b) CARROW McKIEL and BENNY.
~~(c) THE TOOLNESS~~
YOUR REVERENCE:
Lay off or Cerebus will tell Lord Julius in no uncertain terms not to deal with VIEST or any representative of that city.

composing letter with elf

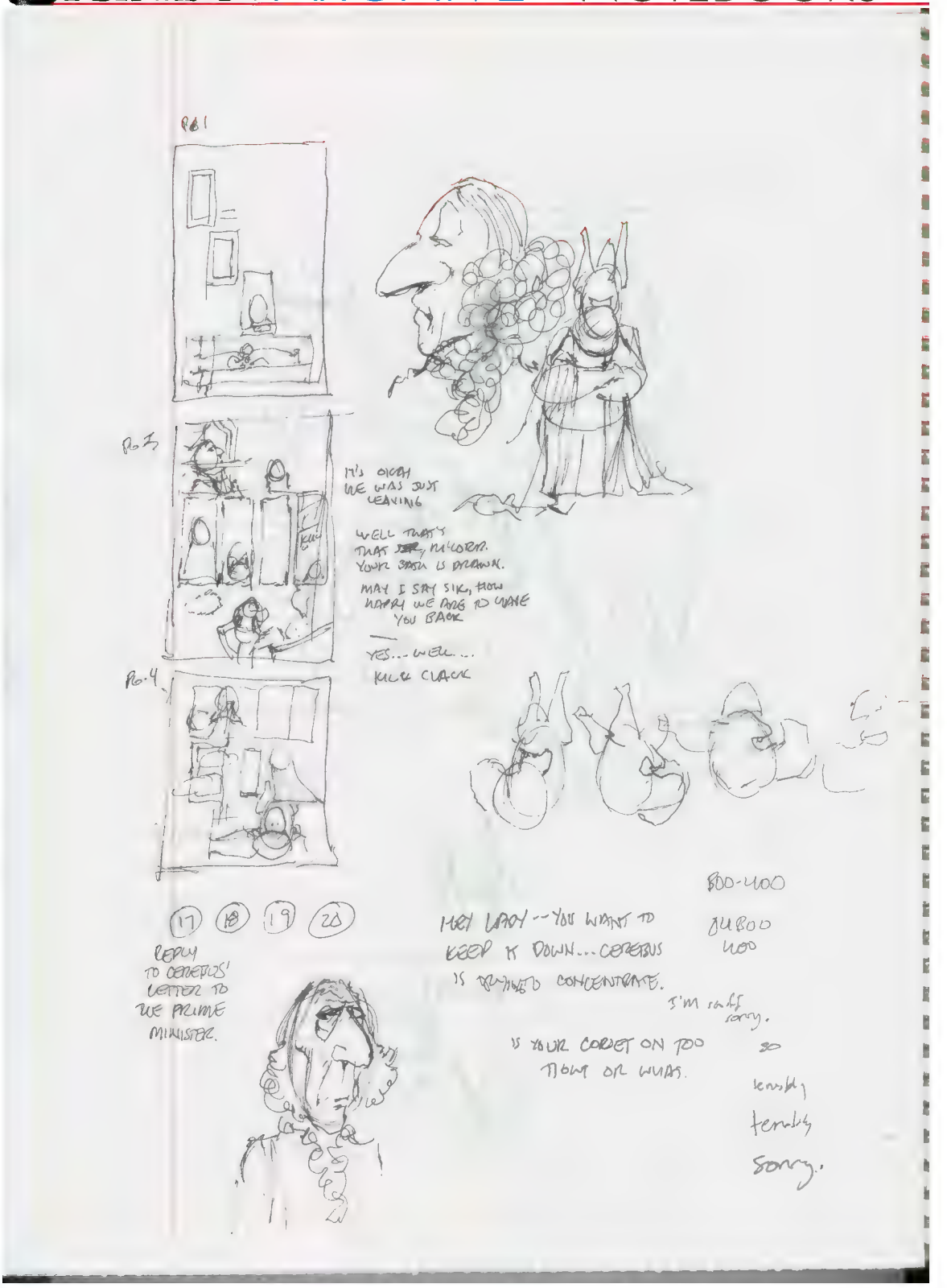
(15)

P6 18 Reply arrives while CEREBUS is playing croquet

HSANB 11/29 - Quick notes on plot points and the first sketch that actually starts to look like The Regency Elf.



HSANB 12/29 - Cerebus and two other guys on horseback. I have no idea what this was for. A SWORDS back-up story idea?


Pg 1
Pg 3
IT'S OKAY WE WAS JUST LEAVING
WELL THAT'S THAT SIR, MAJESTY. YOUR SASH IS STRAIGHT.
MAY I SAY SIR, HOW HAPPY WE ARE TO HAVE YOU BACK
YES... WELL... KLICK CLACK
Pg 4
17 18 19 20
REPLY TO CEREBUS' LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER.
HEY LADY -- YOU WANT TO KEEP IT DOWN... CEREBUS IS TRYING TO CONCENTRATE.
IS YOUR CORSET ON TOO TIGHT OR WHAT.
$800-400
$400
I'M really sorry.
so terribly terribly sorry.

HSANB 13/29 - Thumbnail sketches of early pages in No.29 and first sketches of the Prime Minister of Iest.

& ~~LONERS~~
EVEN LONERS ARE IN GROUPS. THEY
JUST DON'T PAY THEIR DUES.

MIND GAME III
"ANGRY MOTHERS"

he wants a CIRINIST, I'll give him a CIRINIST.
She's been forced into the position of acknowledging
men exist. I am a mother ~~with~~ who has born three
children. To-how-many-children-have-you-given-
birth?
None.

HSANB 14/29 - Refining the Regency Elf in the direction of Debbie Harry.

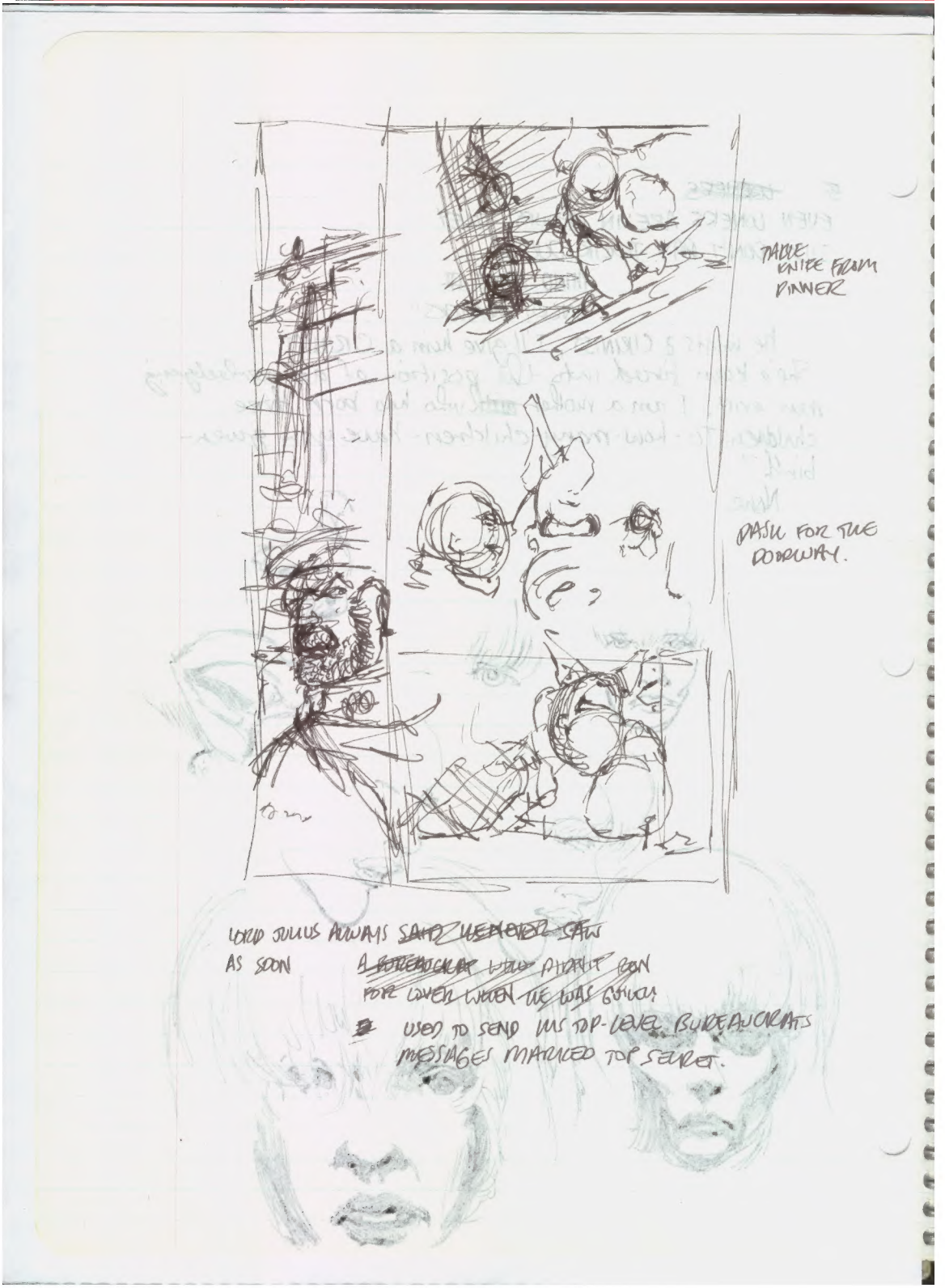
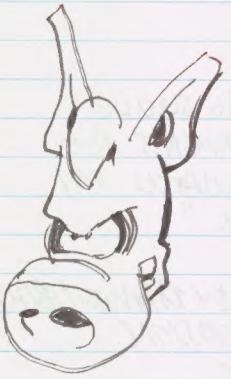


TABLE KNIFE FROM DINNER
DASH FOR THE DOORWAY.
LORD JULIUS ALWAYS SAID WHENEVER SAW
AS SOON
FOR LOVER WHEN HE WAS BOYS
USED TO SEND HIS TOP-LEVEL BUREAUCRATS
MESSAGES MARKED TOP SECRET.

HSANB 15/29 - Rough sketch of Cerebus breaking INTO prison.



#30 CEREBUS GETS HIS FORTUNE
READ BY A CIRCUIST

AUGUST 3,4,5 writing 6 PAGES 1 and 2
AUGUST 10,11,12,13 PAGES 3-10
AUGUST 17,18,19,20 PAGES 11-18
AUGUST 24,25 19,20, COVER

26,27,28,29,30
GAH

#30 PRIME MINISTER: KNOW THAT THERE WAS OPEN AREA GOING WEST ON THE RIVER. WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO KNOW.

CEREBUS: HOW DID YOU CATCH THE ONES FREEBOOTERS?

~~THERE WAS A CLUMP OF TREES~~ ~~I HAVE~~ THAT IS WHAT M'LORD WISHES? TIMEE

PM: WE DISGUISED OUR SOLDIERS AS MERCHANT CARAVAN.

CEREBUS: THEY WEREN'T AS SMART AS THEY THOUGHT, THEN.

Pg. 13.
BACK AT THE REGENCY.

PUT THEM ON THE..UH.. TABLE NEXT TO THE BED
THE NIGHTSTAND, M'LORD

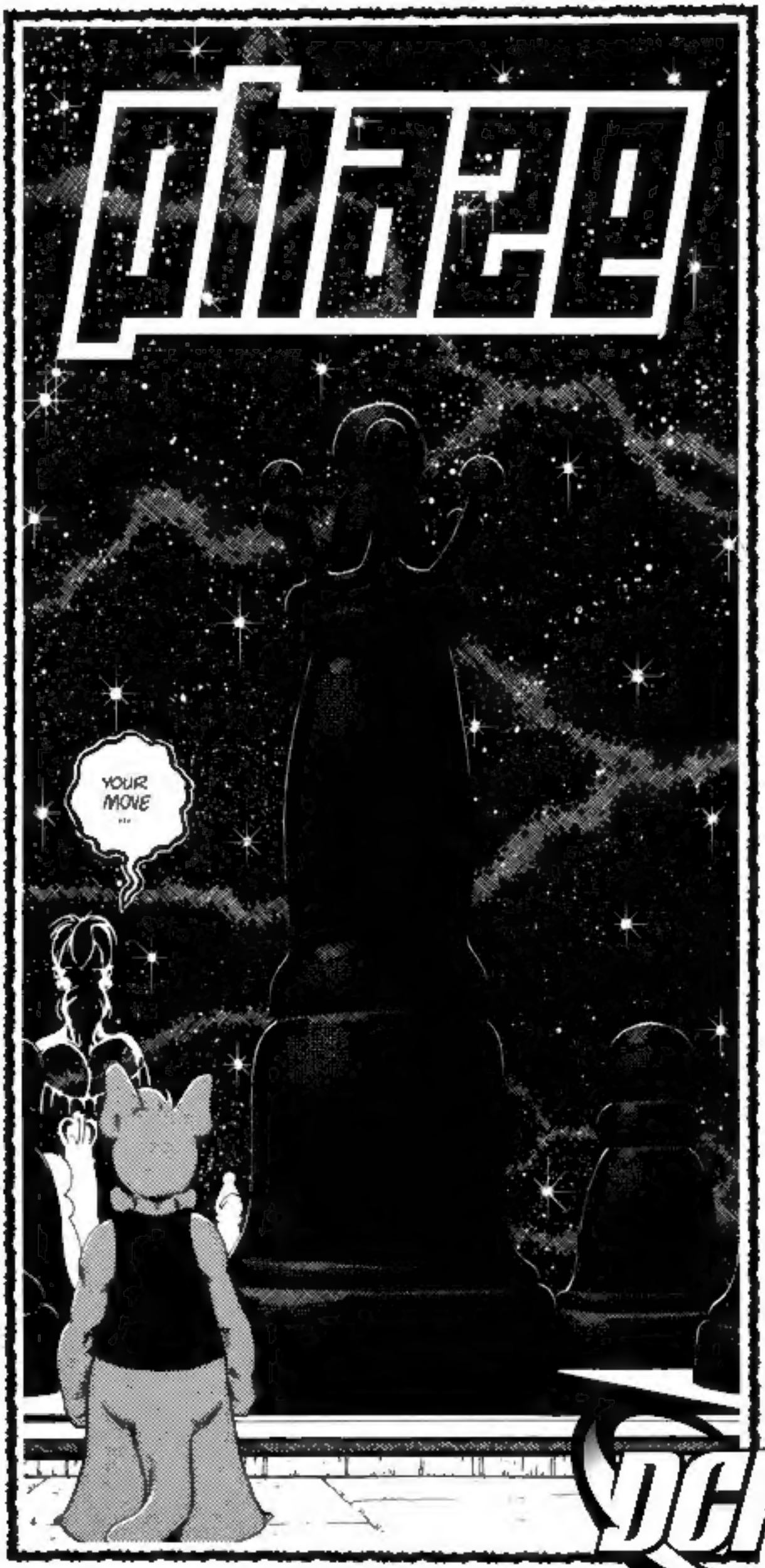
NO, THE TABLE NEXT TO THE BED WILL BE FINE

VERY GOOD, M'LORD

HSANB 16/29 - Sketches, rough dialogue and a writing and drawing schedule for August.

DAVE SIM
CEREBUS
DAVE SIM
HIGH SOCIETY
church
tate
church
tate
JAKA'S STORY
MELMOTH
FLIGHT
WOMEN
READS
MINDS
GUYS
NICK'S STORY
GOING HOME
FARM VOID
LATTER DAYS
THE LAST DAY

phase



DCP